PRESERVING PEACE AND PROSPERITY: The President's Trip to Europe, June 1984

THEMES

TO: Writers & Researchers —
★ The latest boilerplate for Europe ★

I. Central Perceptions

A. Scene

— The President's trip to Ireland, France and the London Economic Summit should be publicly viewed as a practical expression of the foreign policy principles articulated in the April 6th CSIS speech: Realism, Strength, Economic Growth, Shared Responsibility With Allies, Non-Aggression, and Dialogue With Adversaries.

— Explicitly or implicitly every part of the June itinerary should provide mutual reinforcement for one or more of these principles.

— The importance of the President's June travel will transcend not only the London Summit itself but in a real sense the entire European itinerary: our objective, by the time the trip is completed, will be to place Europe in a larger policy context embracing both the Atlantic and Pacific communities.

B. Primary Perception

— A Strong President and the American Renewal: assertive U.S. leadership is essential to world peace and prosperity.

C. Supporting Perceptions

— The Dynamics of Interdependence: genuine peace is a product of Western strength, constancy, and cohesion.

— Keeping Our Powder (And Our Provender) Dry: viable Western security depends on both economic and defense cooperation.

— Reality Is Catching Up With Reagan's Vision: convergence of the Atlantic and Pacific communities as a positive trend in the late 20th Century.

D. Individual Locations and Matching Themes

1. Ireland

— General Theme: "Return To American Roots"

— Specific Emphases

— Ireland as an island link between two continents

MORE

-- Reaffirmation of cultural and historic ties

-- Partnership of shared values

-- Peaceful settlement of conflict (rejection of violence)

-- Importance of East-West dialogue

2. France/Normandy

General Theme: "Reconciliation and the Primacy of Peace"

Specific Emphases

-- The legacy of D-Day: 40 years of peace and prosperity in Europe

-- From sacrifice to security: the significance of the Atlantic Alliance

-- The meaning of American leadership: an enduring commitment to European security

-- From Normandy to the farther shore: America's unflagging efforts to eliminate the world's most destructive weapons

3. Bilaterals in London

-- General Theme: "The sacred trinity of tested ties - tradition, trust, and vitality"

-- Specific Emphases

-- Recommitment to the consultative process

-- Necessity of united stand on East-West issues

-- Sincerity of American efforts to deal constructively with the Soviets

-- Expanded Japanese role in assuming Western security obligations

4. London Economic Summit

— General Theme: "The Spirit of Williamsburg Continues"

— Specific Emphases

  — Lustre of U.S. economic expansion and its relevance to the world community (American economic performance as a positive stimulus)

  — Continued pursuit of non-inflationary growth (sustained recovery creates jobs, increases prosperity)

  — Trade liberalization (despite problems, post-Williamsburg actions work to reduce protectionist trends)

  — New partnerships and the vitality of the Summit process (Western leaders are pioneering creative approaches to joint cooperative ventures e.g., space research, counter-terrorism)—(tentative depending on evolution of pre-Summit preparations)

  — London Summit and the political dimension

    — (President Reagan, while maintaining America's deterrent strength, is taking a realistic, positive approach vis-a-vis the USSR and the issue of arms reductions)

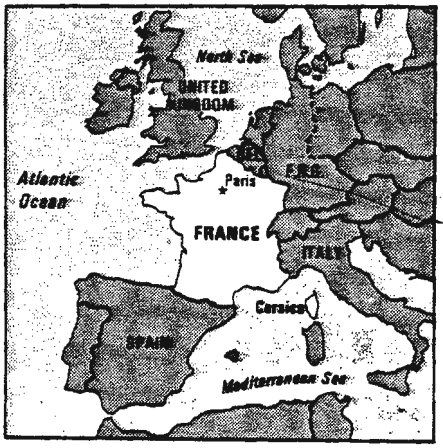
    — Global political outlook (increasing Asia-Europe-U.S. consultations)

background notes

France

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs

March 1984



Official Name:
French Republic

PROFILE

People

Population (1983 est.): 54,748,000. **Annual growth rate** (1983 est.): 0.5%. **Ethnic groups:** Celtic and Latin with Teutonic, Slavic, North African, Indochinese, and Basque minorities. **Religion:** Roman Catholic, 90%. **Language:** French. **Education:** *Years compulsory*—10. *Literacy*—99%. **Infant mortality rate:** 9/1,000. **Work force** (24 million, 1983 est.): *Agriculture*—8.3%. *Industry and commerce*—45.2%. *Services*—46.5%. **Registered unemployment** (Dec. 31, 1983): 8.8%.

Geography

Area: 551,670 sq. km. (212,668 sq. mi.); largest West European country, about four-fifths the size of Texas. **Cities:** *Capital*—Paris. *Other cities*—Marseille, Lyon, Toulouse, Strasbourg, Nice, Bordeaux. **Terrain:** Varied. **Climate:** Temperate; similar to that of eastern US.

Government

Type: Republic. **Constitution:** September 28, 1958.

Branches: *Executive*—president (chief of state); prime minister (head of government). *Legislative*—bicameral Parliament (491-member National Assembly, 292-member Senate). *Judicial*—Court of Cassation (civil and criminal law), Council of State (administrative court), Constitutional Council (constitutional law).

Subdivisions: 21 administrative regions containing 95 departments (metropolitan France). Five overseas departments (Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Reunion, and Saint-Pierre and Miquelon); five overseas territories (New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna Islands, and French Southern and Antarctic Territories); and one special-status territory (Mayotte).

Political parties: Socialist Party (PS), Rally for the Republic (RPR—Gaullists), Union for French Democracy (UDF—Giscardians/Centrist), Communist Party (PCF), various minor parties.

Suffrage: Universal over 18.

Defense (1984 est.): 18% of central government budget.

Flag: Three vertical stripes of blue, white, and red.

Economy

GDP (1983): $920 billion. **Avg. annual growth rate** (1983): 0.5%. **Per capita income** (1983): $7,179. **Avg. inflation rate** (1983): 9.6%.

Natural resources: Coal, iron ore, bauxite, fish, forests.

Agricultural products: Beef, dairy products, cereals, sugar beets, potatoes, wine grapes.

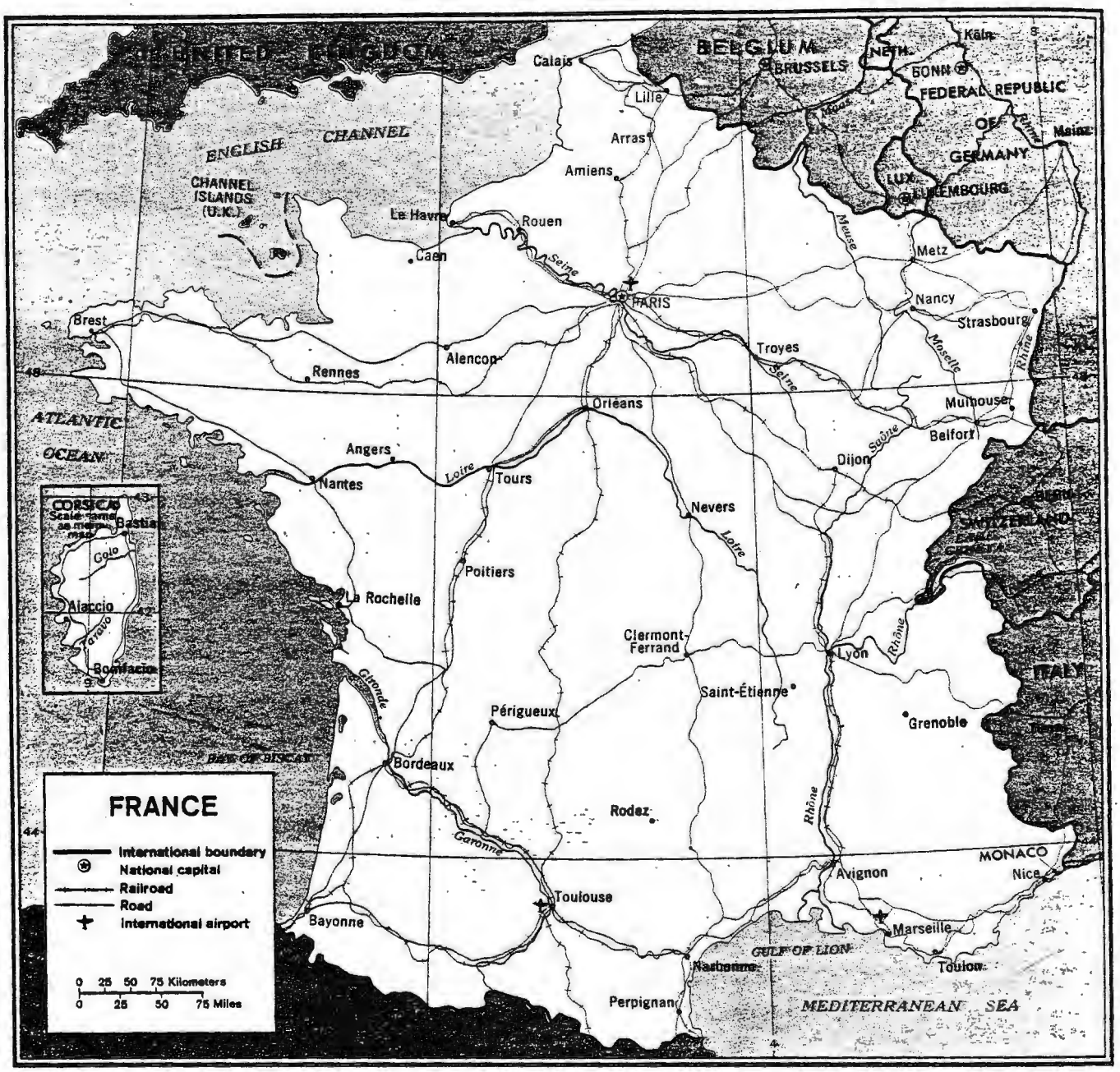
Industries: Steel, machinery and equipment, textiles and clothing, chemicals, food processing, aircraft, electronics.

Trade (1983): *Exports*—$94.9 billion: machinery, transportation equipment, foodstuffs, iron, steel, textiles, agricultural products including wine. *Imports*—$100.6 billion: crude petroleum, machinery and equipment, chemicals, iron and steel, agricultural products, textiles. *Partners*—FRG, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, US, UK, Netherlands, Japan.

Official exchange rate (1983 avg.): 7.61 francs = US$1; Jan.–June 1983 avg., 7.17 francs = US$1; July–Dec. 1983 avg., 8.05 francs = US$1.

Membership in International Organizations

UN and most of its specialized agencies, NATO, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Western European Union, European Communities (EC), INTELSAT.



GEOGRAPHY

France, the largest West European nation, is two-thirds flat plains or gently rolling hills; the rest is mountainous. A broad plain covers most of northern and western France from the Belgian border in the northeast to Bayonne in the southwest and rises to uplands in Normandy, Britanny, and the east. This large plain is bounded on the south by the steeply rising ridges of the Pyrenees, on the southeast by the mountainous plateau of the Massif Central, and on the east by the rugged Alps, the low ridges of the Jura, and the rounded summits of the densely forested Vosges. The principal rivers are the Rhone in the south, the Loire and the Garonne in the west, and the Seine in the north. The Rhine River forms part of France's eastern border with the Federal Republic of Germany.

France generally has cool winters and mild summers in the west and the north. Southern France has a Mediterranean climate, with hot summers and mild winters.

PEOPLE

Since prehistoric times, France has been a crossroads of trade, travel, and invasion. The French people are made up of elements of three basic European stocks—Celtic, Latin, and Teutonic. Over the centuries, however, these groups have blended so that today they may be referred to only in the broadest sense.

France's birth rate was among the highest in Europe from 1945 until the late 1960s, when it began to decline. The annual net increase of births over deaths stood at 250,000–350,000 until 1974. Because of this growth and immigration, the population increased from 41 million in 1946 to 53 million in 1977. In the past few years, the level of births has continued to fall. Yet France's birth rate is still higher than that of nearly all other West European countries, except Italy. In 1983, the rate was 13.7 births per 1,000.

Traditionally, France has had a high level of immigration, and about 3 million people entered the country between the

two World Wars. After the establishment of an independent Algerian state in 1962, about 1 million French citizens returned to France. As of December 31, 1982, France's population of immigrant workers and their families was officially estimated at 4,459,068, including some 120,000 whose status was legalized in 1982. Resident aliens fall into two main groups: South Europeans (52% of total) and North Africans (26% of total), the two principal nationalities being Portuguese and Algerian.

About 90% of the people are baptized Roman Catholic, fewer than 2% are Protestant, and about 1% are Jewish. Immigration in the 1960s and early 1970s from North Africa, especially Algeria, accounts for the more than 1 million Muslims in France.

French education is free and mandatory between ages 6 and 16. The public education system is highly centralized and has a budget amounting to about 4.4% of the gross domestic product (GDP). In 1983, an estimated 17.7% of the national budget was allocated to education. Private education is primarily Roman Catholic. Higher education in France, which began with the founding of the University of Paris in 1150, enrolls about 1 million students in 69 universities in continental France and an additional 60,000 in special schools such as the Grandes Ecoles and technical colleges.

The French language is descended from the vernacular Latin spoken by the Romans in Gaul. Although French includes many Celtic and Germanic words, its structure and most of its words derive from Latin. Since the early Middle Ages, French has been an international language. Spoken around the world today, French is a common second language and, like English, is an official language at the United Nations. In Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and the West Indies, the French language has been a unifying factor, particularly in those countries where it serves as the only common language among a variety of indigenous languages and dialects.

Since the time of the Roman Empire, France's achievements in literature, the arts, and science have influenced Western culture. In architecture, the Romanesque basilicas, the soaring Gothic cathedrals, the formal gardens of Versailles, the imperial design of Parisian boulevards and squares, and the modern designs of masters like Le Corbusier attest to France's influence.

French painting has spanned the centuries in greatness. Some famous names include Watteau (1684–1721), who depicted the polished, elegant society of his time; David (1748–1825), the neoclassical artist of the Revolution and Empire; Delacroix (1798–1863) the romantic; the naturalists and realists Corot (1796–1875), Millet (1814–75), and Courbet (1819–77), who painted realistic landscapes and scenes from rural life; and the impressionists, including Monet (1840–1926) and Renoir (1841–1919), who explored light on canvas, and Cezanne (1839–1906), whose ideas about the treatment of space and dimension are at the base of 20th century modern art. Other famous artists, such as Van Gogh and Picasso, were drawn to France from other countries.

In music, Berlioz (1803–69) in the romantic period was followed by Debussy (1862–1918) and Faure (1845–1924), who were inspired by the impressionist movement in painting. In the 19th century, Bizet (1838–75) wrote the opera *Carmen* and Gounod (1818–93) wrote *Faust* and *Romeo and Juliette.* Chopin (1810–49), though born in Poland, spent his adult life in Paris.

France has played a leading role in scientific advances. Descartes (1596–1650) contributed to mathematics and to the modern scientific method; Lavoisier (1743–94) laid the fundamentals of modern chemistry and physics; Becquerel (1854–1912) and the Curies jointly discovered radium and the principle of radioactivity; and Pasteur (1822–95) developed theories of germs and vaccinations. Several important French inventors were Daguerre (1789–1851), a theatrical scenery painter who invented the daguerrotype, an early photograph; Braille (1809–52), a blind teacher of the blind, after whom is named the system of raised lettering enabling the blind to read; and Bertillon (1853–1914), an anthropologist and criminologist who organized the fingerprint system of identification. In the 20th century, French scientists have won a number of Nobel Prizes.

French literature is renowned from the medieval romances of Marie de France and Chretien de Troyes and the poetry in Old French of Francois Villon to the 20th century novelists Colette, Proust, Sartre, and Camus. Over the intervening centuries were the Renaissance writers Rabelais (fiction), Ronsard (poetry), and Montaigne (essays); the 17th century classical dramatists Corneille, Racine, and Moliere; the 18th century rationalist philosophers Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau; the romantics Germain de Stael, Victor Hugo, Alexandre Dumas (father and son), and Alphonse de Lamartine; 19th century novelists Stendhal, George Sand, and Balzac; realist Flaubert; naturalists Zola and Baudelaire; and 19th century poets Verlaine, Rimbaud, and Valery.

French filmmakers from Jean Renoir to Francois Truffaut have won acclaim over the past decades.

HISTORY

France was one of the earliest countries to progress from feudalism into the era of the nation-state. Its monarchs surrounded themselves with capable ministers, and French armies were among the most disciplined and professional of their day. During the reign of Louis XIV (1643–1715), France was the preeminent power in Europe. But Louis' and his successors' overly ambitious projects and military campaigns led to chronic financial problems for the government in the 18th century. Deteriorating economic conditions and popular resentment against the complicated system of privileges granted the nobility and other favored groups were the principal causes of the French Revolution (1789–94).

Although the Revolution established republican and egalitarian principles of government, France reverted to forms of absolute rule or constitutional monarchy four times—the Empire of Napoleon, the Restoration of Louis XVIII, the reign of Louis-Philippe, and the Second Empire of Napoleon III. After the Franco-Prussian War (1870), the Third Republic was established and lasted until the military defeat of 1940.

World War I brought great losses of troops and materiel. In the 1920s, France began to rebuild its army (then the largest in Europe) and to establish an elaborate system of border defenses (the Maginot Line) and alliances to offset resurgent German strength. France was defeated, however, and occupied in 1940. Following 4 years of occupation and strife, Allied Forces liberated France in 1944. The nation emerged exhausted from World War II and faced a series of new problems.

After a short period of provisional government, initially led by General Charles de Gaulle, the Fourth Republic was established under a new constitution with a parliamentary form of government controlled by a series of coalitions. The heterogeneous nature of the coalitions and the lack of agreement on measures for dealing with Indochina and Algeria caused successive cabinet crises and changes of government. The government structure finally collapsed over the Algerian question on May 13, 1958. A threatened coup led Parliament to call on

Gen. de Gaulle to head the government and prevent civil war. He became prime minister in June (at the beginning of the Fifth Republic) and was elected president in December.

On December 5, 1965, for the first time in this century, the French people went to the polls to elect a president by direct ballot. Gen. de Gaulle defeated Francois Mitterrand with 55% of the vote.

Student dissatisfaction and unrest triggered major disturbances and nationwide strikes in May 1968. Students took over university buildings and battled police in Paris and other large cities, and workers occupied factories throughout the country. The economy was grinding to a halt, and France seemed on the brink of chaos. President de Gaulle dissolved the National Assembly, called for national elections, and announced his intention to pursue a policy of sweeping reform, based on the principle of "participation." The voters, fearing disorder and a possible Communist takeover, voted an overwhelming Gaullist majority into the National Assembly.

In April 1969, President de Gaulle's government conducted a national referendum on the creation of 21 regions with limited political powers. On April 27, the government's proposals were defeated (48% in favor, 52% opposed), and President de Gaulle resigned.

In 1969, a number of candidates presented themselves in the election for a new president. Georges Pompidou, a prime minister under de Gaulle, was supported not only by the Gaullists but also by their Independent Republic allies and some Centrists and was elected with a 58% majority of the votes.

In 1971, Francois Mitterrand assembled various Socialist groups into a new unified Socialist Party. The Socialists, led by Mitterrand, the Communist Party (PCF), headed by Georges Marchais, and a faction of the Radical Party reached agreement on a joint program on which to base their campaign for the March 1973 legislative elections. The union of the left more than doubled its assembly representation, and Mitterrand emerged from the campaign as the left's chief spokesman.

President Pompidou died in office on April 2, 1974, and the race to succeed him split the ruling Gaullist coalition. The UDR (Gaullist) Party selected former Prime Minister Chaban-Delmas as its candidate, but he was eliminated in the first round of voting. Valery Giscard d'Estaing, finance minister in the Pompidou government and head of the Gaullist-aligned Independent Republicans, narrowly defeated Francois Mitterrand, who ran as the only candidate of the left. On assuming office, Giscard d'Estaing became the first non-Gaullist president of the Fifth Republic. He appointed Gaullist Jacques Chirac as prime minister to head a government of Gaullists, Independent Republicans, Centrists, and nonparty technicians.

Policy differences between President Giscard d'Estaing and Chirac led to the latter's resignation in August 1976, although the Gaullist Party continued to support Chirac's successor, prominent international economist Raymond Barre. Barre's appointment marked the first time under the Fifth Republic that neither the chief of state nor the head of government was a member of the Gaullist Party.

A Communist-Socialist coalition intended to confront the parties of the governing majority in the legislative elections of March 1978. The Communists, a minority within this union of the left, broke with the Socialists by demanding the right to receive key ministries should the left win and by calling for extensive nationalization of industries. The breakup of the common front contributed to the left's defeat in the March 1978 elections, with the coalition of the Giscard d'Estaing party group winning 50.49% of the popular vote and electing 291 deputies to the National Assembly compared to the left's 200.

In November 1980, Francois Mitterrand, after fending off a challenge to his leadership, captured the nomination as the Socialist Party's presidential candidate. A bruising campaign, focusing on the theme of rising unemployment, pitted four principal candidates against each other: Giscard d'Estaing, Jacques Chirac, Francois Mitterrand, and Communist Party chief Georges Marchais. Giscard and Mitterrand emerged as the finalists after a primary round on April 26, 1981, which also saw the Communist Party's electoral strength reduced to 15% from the PCF's traditional 20% of the vote. On May 18, 1981, Francois Mitterrand defeated Giscard d'Estaing and was elected president with 51.75% of the vote.

On assuming office on May 21, 1981, President Mitterrand named long-time Socialist Party leader Pierre Mauroy as his prime minister and immediately dissolved the National Assembly. New legislative elections were held in June 1981, and Socialist Party candidates and their allies captured 285 of the 491 parliamentary seats, giving them absolute majority control of the National Assembly. Communists kept only 44 of the 86 seats they had held before the June elections. Four Communist ministers were appointed to the government.

During the first year of his presidency, Mitterrand enjoyed high public opinion ratings. As economic difficulties mounted, however, Mitterrand's popularity, along with that of the left in general, declined. Most local elections since 1981 have shown a shift in voter preferences away from the left, to the benefit of Centrist and right-wing candidates.

Legislative elections are scheduled for the spring of 1986, and the next presidential election will be in 1988.

GOVERNMENT

The constitution of the Fifth Republic was approved by public referendum on September 28, 1958. It greatly strengthened the authority of the executive in relation to Parliament. Under the constitution, the president is elected directly for a 7-year term. Presidential arbitration assures the regular functioning of the public powers and the continuity of the state. The president names the prime minister, presides over the cabinet, commands the armed forces, and concludes treaties. The president may submit questions to a national referendum and can dissolve the National Assembly. In certain emergency situations, the president may assume full powers. The president is thus the dominant element in the constitutional system.

Parliament meets in regular session twice annually for a maximum of 3 months on each occasion. Special sessions are common. Although parliamentary powers are diminished from those existing under the Fourth Republic, the National Assembly can still force the dissolution of the government or call new elections if an absolute majority of the total assembly membership votes a censure motion.

The National Assembly is the principal legislative body. Its deputies are directly elected to 5-year terms, and all seats are voted on in each election. Senators are chosen by an electoral college for 9-year terms, and one-third of the Senate is renewed every 3 years. The Senate's legislative powers are limited, as the National Assembly has the last word in the event of a disagreement between the two houses. The government has a strong influence in shaping the agenda of Parliament. The government can also link its life to any legislative text, and unless a motion of censure is introduced and voted, the text is considered adopted without a vote.

The most distinctive feature of the French judicial system is that it is divided into two categories: a regular court system and a court system that deals specifically with legal problems of the French administration and its relation to the French citizen. The Court of Cassation is the supreme court of appeals in the regular court system; at the top of the administrative courts is the powerful Council of State.

Traditionally, decisionmaking in France has been highly centralized, with each of France's departments headed by a prefect appointed by the central government. In 1982, the national government passed legislation to decentralize authority by giving a wide range of administrative and fiscal powers to local elected officials. However, 2 years later, these laws were still in the process of being implemented.

Principal Government Officials

President—Francois Mitterrand
Prime Minister—Pierre Mauroy
President of the National Assembly—Louis Mermaz
President of the Senate—Alain Poher

Ministers

Economy and Finance—Jacques Delors
- Budget—Henri Emmanuelli (State Secretary)
- Consumer Affairs—Catherine Lalumiere (State Secretary)

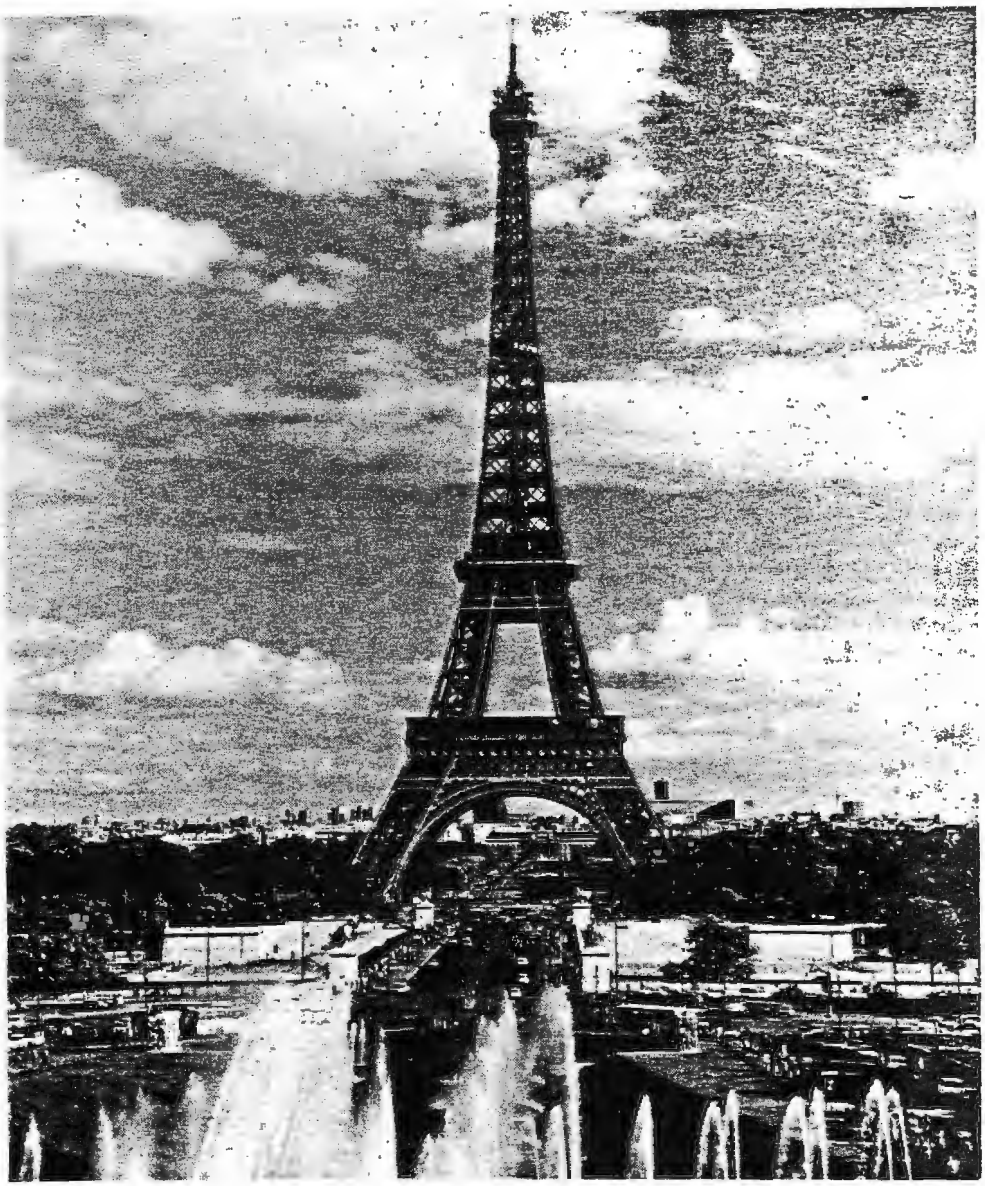
Social Affairs—Pierre Beregovoy
- Employment—Jack Ralite (Junior Minister)
- Health—Edmond Herve (State Secretary)
- Family Affairs, Immigrants—Georgina Dufoix (State Secretary)
- Senior Citizens—Daniel Benoist (State Secretary)
- Repatriated Citizens—Raymond Courriere (State Secretary)

Interior and Decentralization—Gaston Defferre
- Public Security—Joseph Franceschi (State Secretary)
- Overseas Departments and Territories—George Lemoine (State Secretary)

Transportation—Charles Fiterman
- Maritime Affairs—Guy Lengagne (State Secretary)

Justice—Robert Badinter
External Affairs—Claude Cheysson
- Development and Cooperation—Christian Nucci (Junior Minister)

Defense—Charles Hernu
- Defense—Jean Gatel (State Secretary)
- Veterans' Affairs—Jean Laurain (State Secretary)



Alexandre Gustave Eiffel designed the 295-meter-high iron tower for the Paris exposition of 1889.

Agriculture—Michel Rocard
- Forestry—Rene Suchon (State Secretary)

Industry and Research—Laurent Fabius
- Post and Telecommunications—Louis Mexandeau (Junior Minister)
- Energy—Jean Auroux (State Secretary)

Education—Alain Savary
- Education—Roger Gerard Schwartzenberg (State Secretary)

Commerce and Tourism—Edith Cresson
- Tourism—Roland Carraz (State Secretary)

Housing and Urban Development—Paul Quiles
Commerce and Crafts—Michel Crepeau
Vocational Training—Marcel Rigout
European Affairs—Roland Dumas
Government Spokesman—Max Gallo (State Secretary)
Culture—Jack Lang (Junior Minister)
Youth and Sports—Edwige Avice (Junior Minister)
Women's Rights—Yvette Roudy (Junior Minister)
Civil Service—Anicet Le Pors (State Secretary)
Environmental Affairs—Huguette Bouchardeau (State Secretary)
Communications—Georges Fillioud (State Secretary)
Planning—Jean Le Garrec (State Secretary)

Ambassador to the United States and OAS—Bernard Vernier-Palliez
Ambassador to the United Nations—Luc de la Barre de Nanteuil

France maintains an embassy in the United States at 2535 Belmont Road NW., Washington, D.C. 20008 (tel. 202-328-2600). Consulates general are located at Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, and Miramir, Puerto Rico.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Four political groups dominate the political scene. In the National Assembly the Socialist Party, led by Lionel Jospin who succeeded Mitterrand as first secretary, holds 267 seats. Nineteen center-left deputies are also affiliated with the Socialists. The Chirac-led Gaullists, also known as the Rally for the Republic (RPR) and their allies have 90 assembly seats; the UDF federation of parties that supported President Giscard has 63 seats; and the Communist Party holds 44. The remaining 9 seats are held by independents or unaffiliated deputies. The cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Mauroy, is composed of 43 ministers, junior ministers, and state secretaries, of whom 36 are Socialists, 4 (transportation, employment, vocational training, and civil service) are Communists, 2 (education and commerce-crafts) are left radicals, and 1 (environment) is independent left.

ECONOMY

France is one of the world's foremost industrial and agricultural countries. It has substantial agricultural resources, a diversified modern industrial system, and a highly skilled labor force.

Between 1959 and 1973, the French economy grew in real terms at an average annual rate of 5.5%. In late 1974, following the energy crisis, the economy experienced a steep downturn accompanied by accelerated inflation, rising unemployment, and large balance-of-payments deficits. Real growth since 1973 has averaged 2.4%. In 1981, the election of a Socialist President and the ensuing parliamentary elections that returned a Socialist majority led to changes in economic orientation. A number of large manufacturing firms were nationalized, along with most of the commercial banking sector. The initial Socialist policies were stimulative, relying partly on income redistribution and partly on increased government spending with a view to increasing growth and holding down unemployment. These policies were out of phase with those of France's trading partners, and the resulting increase in import demand was not offset by an increase in demand for French exports. By early 1983, the growing trade deficit and relatively high inflation rate put severe pressure on the currency. This pressure culminated in a devaluation in March 1983, which was backed up by a classical economic stabilization plan of reductions in the budget deficit, spending cuts, increased taxes, and tighter monetary and credit policies.

The short-term goals of these policies were to bring the trade and current account deficits back into balance over a 2-year period and to bring price inflation down into line with France's trading partners. The restrictive policies began to bear fruit quickly on the trade front as the deficit narrowed substantially in the fall of 1983. By the year's end, the government's goal of cutting in half the 1982 trade deficit of 92 billion francs had been marginally exceeded. The French economy, however, remains vulnerable to inflation. Although there was indication of some slowing of price rises during the second half of 1983, the government was unable to meet its inflationary targets.

Progress on inflation will depend in large part on the development of personal incomes during 1984. The progress of wage negotiations is crucial in this respect and is also of primary importance to the government's medium-term goal of improving French industrial competitiveness. The manufacturing sector is handicapped by high labor costs and overstaffing, which is particularly severe in the steel, coal, shipbuilding, and automobile sectors. The government is devoting substantial efforts to try to cushion the social impact of unemployment, while at the same time attempting to assist the streamlining and modernization of the sectors concerned.

Industry

France's highly developed and diversified industrial enterprises generate about one-third of the GDP and employ about one-third of the work force. This distribution is similar to that of other highly industrialized nations. The government is a significant factor in the industrial sector, both in its planning and regulatory activities and in its ownership and operation of important industrial facilities. Government involvement in industry has traditionally been strong in France and was increased by the 1981 nationalizations. Government-owned or majority-owned enterprises account for 21% of industrial sales, 23% of the industrial work force, 30% of industrial exports, and 53% of industrial fixed investment. The different percentages reflect the fact that the government-owned part of industry is concentrated in the large, capital-intensive industries. These companies are under the general supervision of the government, their majority shareholder, but function independently in terms of ongoing operations.

The most important areas of industrial production include steel and related products, aluminum, chemicals, and mechanical and electrical goods. France has been notably successful in developing dynamic telecommunications, aerospace, and weapons sectors. With virtually no domestic oil production, France has banked heavily on development of nuclear power, which now produces about 40% of the country's electrical energy.

Compared to an EC average of 43%, only 20% of the French work force is unionized. There are several competing union confederations. The largest, oldest, and most powerful union is the Communist-dominated General Labor Confederation (CGT), followed by the Workers' Force (FO) and the French Democratic Confederation of Labor (CFDT).

Trade

France is the second largest trading nation in Western Europe (after the Federal Republic of Germany). Trade with the enlarged EC accounts for over one-half of the total. In recent years, France has sought, with some success, to expand trade with the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union. It also has active economic relations with the nations of francophone Africa and North Africa.

U.S. sales to France have risen substantially in recent years, principally in machinery and electrical equipment, soybeans, chemicals, aircraft, and aerospace components. Principal French exports to the United States are iron and steel, machinery and electrical equipment, beverages, and chemicals. Cumulative U.S. direct investment in France was $9.1 billion at the end of 1981.

Agriculture

A favorable climate, large tracts of fertile land, and the application of modern technology have combined to make France the leading agricultural producer in Western Europe. The European Community's (EC) common agricultural policy also has created a large, easily accessible market for French products. France is one of the world's leading producers of dairy products and wheat and is basically

self-sufficient in agricultural products, except for feed compounds and tropical produce. Although more land is devoted to pasture and grain, much of France's best land is planted in wine grapes in strictly controlled, small regions.

Balance of Payments

After recording a current account surplus in 1978 and 1979, France's external account moved into a $4.2 billion deficit in 1980, generally due to the impact of increased energy costs prices. This deficit widened rapidly to $4.7 billion in 1981, and to $12 billion in 1982 under the impact of stimulative domestic economic policies and depressed foreign demand for French exports. The devaluation and economic stabilization program introduced in mid-1983 arrested the growth of the deficit, which narrowed in the second half of the year, so that the total was less than half the size of the previous year. The string of current-account deficits, however, had to be financed by capital inflows, so that by 1984, France's gross foreign debt was estimated at about $53 billion. Interest payments on this debt will continue to add to current account outflows, implying that France will have to follow policies that ensure a trade surplus for several years.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

A charter member of the United Nations, France holds one of the permanent seats in the Security Council and is a member of most of its specialized agencies, including the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Europe

France is a leader in Western Europe because of its size, location, strong economy, membership in European organizations, and energetic diplomacy. Progress toward European political union has a high priority. France has made several proposals to strengthen the institutions of the EC but does not envision any significant transfers of its sovereignty to the Community in the near future. France also attaches great importance to Franco-German cooperation as the foundation of efforts to enhance European union. Both President Mitterrand and External Relations Minister Cheysson (a former EC commissioner) strongly support the Community.

Middle East

France supports the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and Israel's right to exist within secure boundaries. President Mitterrand made an official visit to Israel in 1982. France also believes in the necessity for a comprehensive Middle Eastern peace settlement that would include Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories and the establishment of a Palestinian homeland. France continues its active role in efforts to bring stability to the Middle East, including a major contribution to the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon and participation in the Sinai Multinational Force and observers. In the summer of 1982, France cooperated with the United States, the United Kingdom, and Italy in putting a multinational force into Beirut following the Israeli invasion. French policy in the Middle East takes account of the republic's interest in ensuring supplies of Arab oil and access to markets.

Africa

France plays a significant role in Africa, especially in its former colonies, through extensive aid programs, commercial activities, military agreements, and cultural leadership. Key advisory positions are staffed by French nationals in many African countries. In those former colonies where French presence remains important, France contributes to political, military, and social stability. France and the United States cooperated in assisting the Government of Chad in halting an invasion by Libyan-Chadian opposition forces in 1983. France sent a large military force to Chad in August 1983.

Asia

France has extensive commercial relations with Asian countries including Japan, Korea, Indonesia, and China. Japanese competition in automobiles, electronics, and machine tools is a major economic problem. France is making a large contribution to resettling Indochinese refugees and is seeking to broaden its influence with Vietnam and Laos.

Latin America

Since the left came to power in 1981, France has taken a greater interest in Latin American affairs, particularly Central America. Although France and the United States agree on the need for strengthening democratic institutions in the region, there have been important differences on specific issues. There are large Latin American exile communities in France, notably from Argentina and Chile. French economic interests in the region are growing but remain only a small portion of France's worldwide economic activities.

DEFENSE

France is a charter signatory to the North Atlantic Treaty and a member of the North Atlantic Council. Since 1966, it has been outside the NATO integrated military structures, although it remains a member of some Alliance military or quasi-military bodies. In addition, France maintains liaison missions with the major NATO commands and is represented in NATO political groups such as the North Atlantic Council and its subordinate bodies.

French military doctrine is based on the concept of national independence. Its armed forces are subject to national command, and any decision to cooperate with France's allies is subject to the sovereign decision of the French president. The French Army maintains one of its corps in the Federal Republic of Germany, in addition to two corps stationed in France near its eastern and northern borders.

France is linked to its European

Travel Notes

Customs: US citizens visiting for less than 3 months need only present a valid passport. No visa or vaccination is required. Travelers must declare goods carried in hand or in baggage and pass through customs inspection.

Clothing: Clothing needs are similar to those in Washington, DC.

Health: No special precautions are needed. Standards of medical care are usually acceptable. The American Hospital of Paris is located at 63 Boulevard Victor-Hugo, 9200 Neuilly sur Seine (tel. 747-5300).

Telecommunications: Domestic and international telephone, telegraph, and cable communications are good. Paris is six time zones ahead of the eastern US.

Transportation: Streetcars and buses offer good transportation in all large French cities. Paris has an excellent subway system and local rail services. Taxis are available at moderate rates in all cities. Good air and railway service is available to all parts of France and other European capitals.

Holidays and closing hours: July 14, Bastille Day, is the national holiday. Shops and other businesses close from 1:00 to 3:00 pm daily. Many establishments in Paris and other cities are closed during August.

neighbors through the 1948 Treaty of Brussels and the 1954 Paris Accords. It is a member of the Western European Union and has a close bilateral security relationship with the Federal Republic of Germany based on the 1963 Elysee Treaty.

The French maintain a strategic nuclear triad of manned bombers, land-based IRBMs and SSBNs. It is modernizing its nuclear forces, and a sixth SSBN will be launched in 1985.

France is also reorganizing its army. When this reform is completed in 1985, the army will regroup five divisions into a rapid action force designed to be able to intervene rapidly in a European conflict or overseas if necessary. Its navy of 210 oceangoing ships with 200 combat aircraft is the largest in Western Europe. The French Air Force has about 972 aircraft in operational units.

France participates in the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva and in the Conference on Disarmament in Europe. France is not a signatory to the Limited Test Ban Treaty and conducts nuclear testing underground at its South Pacific test site. France has not adhered to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but conducts itself in accordance with the terms of the treaty. The French Government endorsed the SALT II Treaty. The French strongly support the process of U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms control, but they object to inclusion of any French forces in these negotiations.

U.S.-FRENCH RELATIONS

Relations between the United States and France are active and cordial. Since Francois Mitterrand's presidential victory, he has met with President Reagan on numerous occasions, including a 7-day state visit to the United States in March 1984. Bilateral contact at the vice presidential and cabinet level is frequent.

France and the United States are allies who share common values and have parallel policies on many political, economic, and security issues. Differences are discussed frankly when they develop and have not been allowed to impair the pattern of close cooperation that characterizes relations between the two countries.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—Evan G. Galbraith
Deputy Chief of Mission—John J. Maresca
Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs—Michael E. Ely (Gerald Rosen, due to arrive in September 1984)
Counselor for Political Affairs—Adrian A. Basora
Consul General—John W. DeWitt (Robert E. Ezelle, September 1984)
Counselor for Public Affairs—Terrence F. Catherman
Counselor for Commercial Affairs—E. William Tatge
Counselor for Administrative Affairs—Charles E. Emmons
Defense and Army Attache—Brig. Gen. Donald C. Hilbert

Consular Posts

Consul General, Marseille—Edward M. Sacchet (Edmund Van Gilder, August 1984)
Consul General, Bordeaux—William A. Shepard
Consul General, Lyon—Peter R. Chaveas
Consul General, Strasbourg—Robert O. Homme
Consul General, Nice—William V. Newlin
Consul General, Martinique—Timothy C. Brown

The U.S. Embassy in France is located at 2 Avenue Gabriel, Paris 8 (tel. 296-1202). The United States is also represented in Paris by its missions to the OECD and UNESCO. ■

Further Information

These titles are provided as a general indication of material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release May 22, 1984

PRESS BRIEFING
JOHN O. MARSH, SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
ON THE NORMANDY PORTION OF
THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO EUROPE

May 22, 1984

3:35 P.M. EDT

SECRETARY MARSH: What I'd like to do is give you a kind of an overview or background of the events that will mark the 40th anniversary of Normandy and introduce to you several of the other people who can give you additional details on specific parts of that and other dimensions of it.

As you're aware, this coming June marks the 40th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. In the Army we see that there's a very significant interest in it by a large number of Veterans groups that have indicated their desire to be there and participate in it.

The Army was designated the Executive Agent for the Department of Defense to coordinate events, not only in Defense, but also government-wide.

There are other events that are associated with this. For example, the liberation of Rome. We have formal ceremonies in Rome on the second day of June.

Later in the year, there will be commemorative ceremonies that will probably focus on the Bulge, operation in Market Garden, VE Day and other events.

It's not necessary to point out what an epic event occurred in the Normandy invasion You're very much aware of that. I would say to you that we know that there will be substantial representation from groups -- 4th Infantry Division, 1st Infantry Division, 29th Infantry Division, Rangers, 82nd Airborne and 101st, these Veterans have indicated their desire to be there. You're talking with men now that are -- most of them are -- 40 years after the event are now in their 60's. The American Legion, VFW, Disabled American Veterans and others.

If you look at the nature of the ceremonies, you might look at it from three different perspectives. Governmental: They are multinationl. The government of France is the host for the events that will occur on three principle places on the Normandy coast.

In addition to that, there will be a number of local events and ceremonies that will occur, not only in France, but also in England. And in addition to the ceremonies in France, there will be some other ceremonies that will occur in England June the 6th.

General Laughton Collins, better known as "Lightening Joe" Collins, who was a general officer, Corps Commander at the Normandy invasion, has been designated as the senior American military personnel and General Collins will be present.

There will be participation by United States forces that will be described to you later. Their function will be as a part of the commemorative group that will take part in the events. There will also be certain support functions performed by

United States forces.

In our forces, it goes across the spectrum from Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Navy. We also will have a significant number of programs that will be occurring that we are aware of here in the domestic United States. That will be described to you later on.

The individuals who will conduct the remaining portions of the briefing are Colonel Skates, who is actually on active duty as a reservist. He's been called back to active duty for 60 -- 90 days. He's a history professor. He'll give you a kind of a Normandy overview, which we believe will be helpful to you in putting it into a perspective.

The Chief of the Coordination Committee for the Department of Defense is Lieutenant General David Grange, the last remaining General Officer of the United States Army,

who is a combat soldier from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He had two parachute assaults into Europe. He was not in the Normandy invasion, but was in -- in Southern France at the time. He is the Chief Coordinator for this event. He will give you a detailed briefing on the events at Utah Beach, Normandy Beach and Pointe du Hoc. It will be concluded by General Barker who will give you an overview of U.S. activities, press assistance that we hope that we can be able to give you.

Finally, as you're aware, Normandy was the beginning of the end; VE Day would occur in less than a year, and then we would see the rebuilding of Europe, the Marshall Plan, the economic recovery of Europe -- the NATO Alliance, which today finds many of our adversaries as strong members of our Alliance.

At this time, I'll call on Colonel Skates.

COLONEL SKATES: Thank you, sir. I know that when people mention history, the audience groans, so I don't intend to give you a history lesson. I don't have time to do that. What I want to do is point out those things, those areas, that are of historical significance that relate to what you'll be seeing this June 6th -- that is June 6, 1984.

Before I do that, let me talk about two points, and I'll do this as quickly as I can. First, I want to tell you why Normandy was selected in as concise a way as I know how. I don't intend to go through those one by one.

Basically what the planners did, was simply take the coast of Europe from, about Antwerp -- well, Southern Netherlands -- down to the Brittany Penninsula. And they took these criteria and they set each area along that coast beside these criteria and tried to see which one fit those best. Now none suited those, all those criteria. Normandy came closest, although it didn't -- it fell short particularly in the criteria of ports. That's why one of the earliest campaigns was not toward the heart of France but up the Cotentin penninsula towards Cherbourg to get, to get a port -- which they felt was absolutely essential to the future of the drive across France and the drive into the heart of Germany. So, it was the best compromise, Normandy was.

Now, the second point I want to make before I get into the actual historical signficance of some of the sites that you'll be visiting on the 6th of June, let me say just a word or two about what came to be the driving considerations. That is, the factors which dictated a great deal of what happened at Normandy on June 6th, 1944.

The single greatest criteria, or single greatest consideration, was landing craft. It comes as a surprise to most people to realize, or when they find out, that we did not bring, on June 6th, 1944, overwhelming ground power onto the coast of Normandy. We had it; if we could have gotten the shipping and the landing craft, we could have brought overwhelming ground power. But a five division assault which Normandy was, on D-Day, was a close thing. The Germans could bring much greater ground combat power to bear in Normandy in those first few days than we could.

And the limiting factor -- it was not that we didn't have the troops available. It was we didn't have the lift -- the shipping and the landing craft, to get them across the English Channel and onto the beaches. So that was the prime driving consideration in the whole process.

The other one was, of course, weather -- tides, moonlight. There were several factors that had to come together all at one time which dictated the time. One was, of course, a period of good weather; another was a moonlit night, so that the airborne drop could occur. Another was tides. If you've never been there, you don't realize,

I think, how broad the beaches are at low tide, and how very narrow they are at high tide. So they had to have a period early in the morning, at low tide, where they could land the landing craft with the beach obstacles exposed, rather than running over them.

Okay -- those two things, I think, will be helpful later on in understanding the historical significance of some of the sites. This is, of course, the overall scheme for D-Day. And those are the famous five beaches. From West to East: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. Of course, Utah and Omaha were U.S. beaches; the other three were British beaches -- British-Canadian beaches, two of them were British beaches, one of them was assaulted by a Canadian division.

We're going to focus in now on two of the American beaches and one other site which will be of interest to you on the 6th. of June -- that is, Pointe du Hoc. And I'll describe for you, as briefly as I can, what happened at each of those places so that you'll have that background when you go this June.

First, there you see Utah beach, and the drop zones for the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, immediately behind the beaches. Now, as it turned out, the sea assault on Utah Beach, done on the 4th, or the 6th of June, the assault division was the 4th Infantry Division, was the least costly of any of the beaches. In other words, it went off smoothly, almost as it was -- almost precisely as it was planned, and with relatively few casualities. Now that came as a result of some good luck, of the terrain -- Utah Beach is very flat, it's not very good defensive terrain for the Germans -- in other words, there are no heights that they can get on, as they could at Omaha. And, finally, as a result of the good work done that night, after midnight, by the airborne divisions that were dropping in this area

Now, their main purpose was to secure exits from the beaches. This area was flooded -- here. So, as the 4th Infantry Division came across the beach, they had to be assured that those exists were open, so they could get off the beach. And that was the job of the airborne divisions, to secure those exits from the beach, to -- to secure river crossings, and to guard the right flank of the Allied Forces.

Utah Beach, then, is -- perhaps, the most unscenic area in Normandy -- and, for that reason, partially for that reason, was the least costly of the areas assaulted.

Pointe du Hoc, which you see here in a photograph, is, as you can tell, a dramatic piece of -- (laughter.) -- piece of terrain. It's just a spike that sticks into the English Channel.

There will be a ceremony there, a major ceremony, on June 6th this year. What happened there was one of the most famous -- one of the smallest -- but most famous episodes of D-Day, and that was the Ranger Assault at Pointe du Hoc. Three companies, of the Second Ranger Battalion, climbed those cliffs; landed by assault boat at the foot of those cliffs -- in that area -- put rope ladders up the cliffs, assaulted the cliffs. Their purpose was to neutralize gun positions, bunkers, that the Germans had put on top of the bluff. When they got there, they found the bunkers were empty.

They pushed on inland, discovered the guns that had been removed from the bunkers back in a field, spiked them -- destroyed them -- and, at that time, were counter-attacked by the Germans, and spent the next 24 hours literally fighting for their lives. They suffered -- of the roughly 200 men that assaulted the cliffs on the morning of June 6th, 75 of them came down when they were relieved a little more than 24 hours later.

That became of course, a symbol of the tenacity of, and professionalism, that was embodied in the whole campaign. And, as I said, there will be on that Pointe, a major ceremony on June 6th of this year.

Q Is that campaign at the bottom or at the top?

COLONEL SKATES: Sir?

Q Is that ceremony at the bottom?

COLONEL SKATES: The ceremony is going to be -- well, you can't see it, this is sort of fuzzy -- but there is a German observation post -- incidentally, some of those bunkers are still there. They've been blown, and -- there are bomb craters all over here still. There's an observation post right here. The ceremony, as I understand, will be right here, behind that observation post and slightly to the side of it.

Q Can I ask you --

SECRETARY MARSH: General Grange is going to develop in detail --

COLONEL SKATES: General Grange is going to go into these ceremonies in more detail.

Q Okay. I want to ask about the assault for just one second. They did not encounter hostile fire --

COLONEL SKATES: No, no, if I implied that, I didn't mean to. In other words, they did not get up the cliffs without loss. The Germans were there on top of the cliffs, literally throwing rocks at them, and rolling -- dropping hand grenades down, and firing down at them. So, they did suffer casualities crossing that open ground to the foot of the cliffs and trying to assault the cliffs.

My point, the point I was trying to make was that the heaviest casualities they suffered, came as a result

of the German counter-attacks later on in the day after they'd already secured Pointe du Hoc, after they'd already got up the cliffs. But I did not mean to imply that they didn't -- they did have casualties.

Q How high are the bluffs?

Q Was that the night that the weather was so terrible?

COLONEL SKATES: The weather was marginal all through the night. The weather affected -- it was clear, but the weather affected the seaborne forces more than it did the airborne forces. These people were, in fact, about 45 minutes late getting to the foot of Pointe du Hoc because of a strong current and because of some bad guidance they had gotten -- but also because of a strong current.

Yes, ma'am, the weather was bad. It was clear, but it was very windy and the sea was almost too rough to do it.

Q How high were those bluffs?

COLONEL SKATES: Those bluffs were about -- I couldn't give you a precise figure, but they're maybe 100 feet. Wouldn't you say, sir? About 100 feet. And they're precipitous.

MR. SIMS: We're going to take questions at the end. So if these fascinating details may wait until then -- we want to get through this and we'll come back and perhaps -- or else, talk to you later on.

COLONEL SKATES: Okay. The third area -- and this is also an American area. What I'm doing is zeroing in on the American areas and ignoring, of course, the British and Canadians, who actually landed more troops on D-Day than we did. But, for our purposes, I think we need to zero in on the Americans. That's a bad choice of words, isn't it.

Okay. Omaha Beach. There will be a ceremony there, a major ceremony on the afternoon of June 6th at the Normandy American Cemetery which sits on the bluffs above Omaha Beach.

Now, Omaha Beach, because of its terrain, because of the fact that the Germans defended it more tenaciously than they did at Utah, for a variety of reasons, Omaha Beach was the closest run of any of the five beaches. In fact, by about 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. in the morning, many people thought that the forces that had landed on Omaha Beach would not be able to stay there.

SECRETARY MARSH: -- you had a German unit that was running anti-invasion maneuvers which contributed to that.

COLONEL SKATES: That's right. There was a German unit there that intelligence hadn't picked up. They didn't know it was there. Also, the terrain, itself, is highly defensible. Omaha Beach is a broad beach but it's backed by, again, steep, precipitous bluffs -- cliffs -- of about 100-150 feet. And the Germans got up in those cliffs and set gun positions on -- rifle picks on top of the cliffs and prepared bunkers in the sides of the cliffs that could fire straight down the beaches.

The heaviest casualties of any units taken on D-Day were taken by units on Omaha Beach. The 116th Infantry Regiment, the 29th Infantry Division, which was a part of the Maryland-Virginia National Guard, which was a Maryland-Virginia National Guard Division -- took very heavy casualties in the first wave in this area here, on the right-hand side.

Q What was that unit again?

COLONEL SKATES: It was the 116th Infantry of the 29th Infantry Division. It was actually attached to the 1st Infantry Division that day, but it was organic. In other words, its parent unit was

the 29th Infantry Division, which was the Maryland-Virginia Guard -- National Guard Unit.

SECRETARY MARSH: Virginia regiment.

COLONEL SKATES: Virginia regiment, yes, sir. It was a Virginia regiment.

The -- it turned out to be won by really the initiative and courage of corporals and sergeants and second lieutenants and captains, who just, on the beach, took the attitude, as one fellow put it, "We can stay here and get killed or we can try to move forward and get killed." And small units then began to work their way off the beach -- not up those cuts here as had originally been the plan, but straight up the bluffs. And they began to filter up in small groups and naval gunfire began to neutralize, began to work on the Germans pretty well and by noon, small groups were getting off the beach and up on the bluffs, and the Germans were pulling back. Very close on the attack --

Q Those cuts are breaks in the bluffs?

COLONEL SKATES: Ma'am?

Q Those cuts are breaks in the bluffs?

COLONEL SKATES: Right. Americans called them draws, but they're low places. The Germans had those places heavily covered by fire. And although the original intent had been to secure those cuts as exits from the beach because those -- up every one of those cuts ran a road -- and they wanted to do the same thing at Omaha they did at Utah, and that was get off the beach, and the Germans realized that, too, and they had those cuts covered by fire so that these small parties began to work their way up the bluffs, straight up the bluffs.

SECRETARY MARSH: Could you move over to Utah now.

COLONEL SKATES: Yes. Do you want to switch back to Utah?

SECRETARY MARSH: Yes, I think -- so General Grange can address the ceremony --

COLONEL SKATES: I'm running over but -- I'll be glad to take any questions afterwards, but we're running short of time here. If you want to talk afterwards, I'll be glad to do it.

General Grange is going to run through the ceremonies themselves --

Q Colonel Skates, what's your first name?

COLONEL SKATES: Ray.

Q What's your last name?

COLONEL SKATES: Skates.

Q It is?

SECRETARY MARSH: S-k-a-t-e-s.

COLONEL SKATE: S-k-a-t-e-s, yes, ma'am.

Q S-k-a-t-e-s. And you're a colonel?

COLONEL SKATES: As my wife says, I'm not a real colonel. I'm a reserve colonel. I'm a history professor.

GENERAL GRANGE: -- let me --

Q Where are you a professor?

Q -- history professor -- where?

COLONEL SKATES: At University of Southern Mississippi.

Q Southern Mississippi --

GENERAL GRANGE: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Dave Grange, and I'm the Chairman of the Coordinating Activity for Historical Observances. My committee's been together since February of this year. We number a grand total of about six. And, of course, Ray Skates is one of my lead men.

Since we've been together, we've identified about 80 -- roughly 80 events that'll take place in Europe between May and the end of 1984. Now, these take place in Italy, in Luxembourg, in France, in Belgium, Holland, in the United Kingdom. Now, most of these have been taking place ever since VE Day. There's nothing new about these events.

This being the 40th anniversay, some have taken on some added significance. And I think Mr. Marsh explained the reason why.

Of these 80 some events, 17 are important to us -- my committee -- because there's United States forces involvement. We're a joint organization, so we're interested in not just the Army but the Navy, the Air Force, the Coast Guard and the Merchant Marine, by the way, who was also there in considerable numbers on that memorable day on June the 6th.

I'd like to discuss just the French activity. But first of all, of those 17 major events where there are United States forces involved, three of them are significant. One is the liberation of Rome, and there'll be ceremonies on the 2nd of June there. The next events are in Normandy, and there are events on both the 5th and 6th of June. And then we move to Belgium on the 10th of June for a commemorative ceremony in Bastogne, not just to recognize the Americans who fought the Battle of the Bulge there, but that also coincides with the Belgium Memorial Day.

But let me get on to what's going to happen in Normandy -- that's what you're interested in -- on the 5th and 6th of June. On this chart, you see the major events. First of all, on the 5th of June, there are three: Pointe du Hoc,

there'll be a reenactment of that assault by the 2nd Ranger Battalion. This is done by the 10th Special Forces Group, which is stationed at Bad Toelz in Germany. Also, on the 5th of June, there'll be a dedication of a memorial, and the time is still to be determined. It looks, as of this moment -- it'll take place sometime around mid-afternoon. A new memorial is being erected there by the American Battle Monuments Commission. It's our monument. The land was given to us by the French government just recently. And that monument is being dedicated to those soldiers who landed on all those beaches on the 6th of June.

And in the afternoon -- late afternoon -- on the 5th of June, there'll be a reenactment jump at Ste-Mere-Eglise where the airborne divisions landed -- pretty much the center of the impact area, those parachutists. But that'll take place late afternoon. And there'll be paratroopers there from the 82nd Airborne Division who are flying in from Fort Bragg, jumping in England, picking up some of their counterparts, their comrades-in-arms from the British Parachute Regiment, and then flying on to Normandy to reenact the drop at Sainte-Mere-Eglise.

On the 6th of June, Pointe du Hoc, the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Ranger landing is a major event because we believe that President Reagan will attend those ceremonies. That'll be the first one of the ceremonies he will go to, then to Omaha Beach for a memorial ceremony there and then on to Utah Beach, which is the largest by far of all three events.

We still haven't firmed up what's going to happen in August. That's the 15th of August -- was the date we invaded southern France. But we expect that that'll get some considerable attention, too.

Could I have the map, please? Again, just to get you oriented, Pointe du Hoc here is where the Rangers landed; Utah Beach where the 4th Division came in; and Omaha Beach -- our 1st Division came in, reinforced by elements of the 29th Division -- National Guard Division -- with the Virginia Regiment, the 116th.

Over here is where the parachutists dropped -- the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions. This is the first United States Army under the command of General Omar Bradley.

Let me talk first now about Pointe du Hoc. Again, a spectacular shot. You can see the observation post. This is a bunker. This is all concrete-reinforced, built by Rommel when he was putting in the defensive positions in '43 and '44. A number of positions are still in tact and, as Ray mentioned, there are still guns and lots of bomb craters around.

The President will arrive here first. There to greet him will be the Ambassador of France, Ambassador Galbraith, General Rogers, the NATO Commander, a senior military representative in Europe will be there also.

Very importantly, there'll be roughly 90 Veterans of the Second Ranger Battalion there, men who actually made that assault up that cliff in the face of the German fire, to welcome our President.

There'll be a plaque unveiled. The President will remain there for 35 minutes and then he'll move on to Omaha Beach.

Q Sir, the 90, how does that jive with the 75 --

SECRETARY MARSH: Of the 75, that takes into account those who could walk back down the cliffs. Those casualties would be those who were killed in action and those wounded in action, who have been evacuated by litter.

COLONEL SKATES: There was also another Ranger Battalion that did not come -- did not assault the cliffs. It came in further down the beach and some of those veterans are from that battalion.

Q How long did you say the President would be there?

GENERAL GRANGE: Thirty-five minutes.

Now, this is all very tentative. Those plans are not made by the Pentagon. (Laughter.)

Next slide, please. This is a cemetery at Colleville in France, American cemetery maintained by our government, and this is Omaha Beach. This is where the 116th Infantry came across the bluffs. This is rather high. When you see this smaller piece of ground, you wonder how they ever made it that day. And the first division, primarily the 16th Infantry, came across right here.

The President will arrive. He'll arrive off -- off the slide. He'll go into a guest house, which is located right here, to the guest building where he'll have a chance to freshen up, sign in. They have a guest book there and certainly they'll want our President's signature there.

He'll move to a chapel, which is located on this end of the cemetery, spend some time there and then move down to -- move back to the guest house, where he will welcome President Mitterrand of France.

Q So he walks back and forth? Is that how --

GENERAL GRANGE: There's some walking and there's some riding involved.

Q How many men are buried there?

GENERAL GRANGE: 9,630.

Q How far would you say the cemetery is from the beach?

GENERAL GRANGE: This is just a short walk. You can go from -- there are stairs here and there are all sorts of panoramic maps and sketches and you can tour this whole area. You can walk from the bluff down to the water in 10 minutes. It's very close.

Q -- in yards or something?

GENERAL GRANGE: In yards?

Q Yes.

GENERAL GRANGE: If you were getting shot at, I guess they'd be shooting at you at about 500 yards. (Laughter.)

Q Okay. Thanks. I guess some people think in those terms. (Laughter.)

Q Are we going to get --

GENERAL GRANGE: When you look at that --

Q -- shot at? (Laughter.)

GENERAL GRANGE: When you look at that -- you look where, you know, there we were and there they were and you wonder --

Q How high --

GENERAL GRANGE: -- brave men there that day.

Q How are the graves marked?

GENERAL GRANGE: They're marked, as all our graves are marked, the name of the individual --

Q Right. But -- Is it a cross or -- Is it a cross or a star --

GENERAL GRANGE: It depends. It depends. There are crosses of David -- there are Stars of David. There are crosses.

GENERAL BARKER: No, he means the marker. The markers. What kind of markers there are --

Q Little flags?

Q Those too.

GENERAL GRANGE: That's right. Those too. That's the headstone. And it'll be "Private" -- you know -- "Joe Dokes, Infantry -- 16th Infantry," "116th Infantry."

Many of the people sleeping here landed here and this is as far as they got --

Q They're all Americans? All the ones that --

GENERAL GRANGE: They're all Americans there. There are 33 pairs of brothers there, by the way.

Q Is this where the Roosevelt brothers --

GENERAL GRANGE: The only difference in headstones are Medal of Honor holders and they have the Medal of Honor and that's a little gold inlay in the -- inscribed replica of the Medal of Honor.

Q Where are the Roosevelt graves?

GENERAL GRANGE: Right about -- right about here. Somewhere in this area. And you're right, there are two Roosevelts buried there.

Q Did everyone there die in the invasion or in the whole campaign --

GENERAL GRANGE: I really can't answer that too accurately for you; but you can -- the date's on there. The date's on there, so many of these say "6 June" or "8 June" or "10 June;" but I would say the majority of them died in the Normandy campaign, which lasted for several months.

COLONEL SKATES: I think the General's right. Most of them died in either the Normandy campaign or in that area of France; but many of them did not. In other words, in some cases, remains were brought there from other campaigns. So by no means -- Neither thing is correct.

Q Like Italy, for example?

COLONEL SKATES: You cannot say that everybody who died at Normandy is buried there. Nor can you say that all of the people there died at Normandy. They didn't organize the cemeteries that way.

Q And there are some father-son burials?

GENERAL GRANGE: No father and --

SECRETARY MARSH: Thirty-three brothers.

GENERAL GRANGE: Brothers. Thirty-three pairs of brothers are buried there --

Q Is that the chapel, that white building in the background?

GENERAL GRANGE: This is the chapel here. This is the memorial on this end. There are large panoramic maps in here which show -- which pretty much show the map I just had up there a moment ago, the invasion scheme and all the units that participated.

The President moves here with President Mitterrand. President Reagan and President Mitterrand move here. They both make brief addresses. We anticipate -- These folks who are allowed inside -- security corridor -- there are about 4,000 Veterans that will be in attendance, but many, many more people there.

Q How many?

SECRETARY MARSH: Four thousand Veterans.

Q American Veterans?

GENERAL GRANGE: Veterans. Four thousand Veterans.

Q American Veterans?

GENERAL GRANGE: And some others, too, but primarily Americans.

Q Will there be any time when the President, Mitterrand, Trudeau and Thatcher are together at any of these ceremonies?

GENERAL GRANGE: Let me continue on to another -- the next slide. All right? I'll answer your question then.

The President stays here for 50 minutes.

Q 50? 5,0?

GENERAL GRANGE: 5,0.

Okay, next slide, please. There's not too much -- the first two slides are rather interesting slides. This, again, is Utah Beach. It's drab, sand dune area. It hasn't changed a bit since 1944. The same pastures, several generations removed; the same herds of cows, and the same French farmers are there. And that is absolutely it. But you can see, it's sort of flat.

Although there's only 34 miles between Utah and Omaha Beach, the difference is night and day -- from a high bluff and rocky shale beach at Omaha to a flat, sandy, long beach, particularly at low tide, and low dunes -- no higher than 12 feet -- sand dunes at Utah Beach. This is where the 4th Division came ashore.

The President leaves Omaha Beach now and goes to Utah Beach. This is 17 miles in a straight line, as the crow flies; 34 miles if you go by road, which also haven't improved very much since 1944.

At this ceremony -- and this is strictly a French ceremony. The French are the hosts -- France is the host for all the things that are happening over there on the 5th and 6th of June. And they are the hosts, but at this particular ceremony, President Mitterrand is calling all the shots, what happens -- what's going to take place at the time.

Now, here, they'll be joined again possibly by eight other heads of state. Eight other heads of state. President Mitterrand is the host here. There will be representative military units from all the countries and there will be eight 100-man contingents from various countries who took part in the invasion on the 6th of June. There will be 2000 -- 2000, Ray? On the shore? Right.

COLONEL SKATES: We're going to -- the U.S. -- they've given us 2100 veteran spaces.

GENERAL GRANGE: Yes, 2100 spaces -- The French are controlling the overall block; there will be veterans who have preference to get in to see this ceremony.

Q What are the countries? Can you list them?

GENERAL GRANGE: United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, U.S. and -- Canada. I'm sorry.

Q What about the Poles?

GENERAL GRANGE: There will be Polish contingents in the area. (Laughter.)

Q What does that mean?

GENERAL GRANGE: Well, that's as much as I can give you now because we don't control the guest list. That's a French initiative.

Q Well, is this a touchy subject, having Poles there?

GENERAL GRANGE: No.

Q What was the extent of their participation on D-Day?

SECRETARY MARSH: They were part of the invasion --

GENERAL GRANGE: They were part of the invasion force.

SECRETARY MARSH: -- with the British and the Canadians. There were Czech and Polish units involved in that, if I'm not mistaken.

Is that right?

COLONEL SKATES: Yes, sir. Yes, sir, that's right.

Q Sir, of the five areas, why did the French pick Utah for the main, overall ceremony? Is there any reason?

GENERAL GRANGE: None that I really know of. One of the reasons you could probably -- if there would be a reason, I would -- if I had to pick one, you can handle more people there and they expect to get 20,000 people in that area. It's a flat area. The pastures -- the cow pastures, you can put a lot of people in there.

You notice the cemetery. It's pretty heavily wooded. It's -- you know, it's beautifully landscaped but it's difficult to put a lot of people in there where they can observe what's going on at the memorial.

Q Do you have a name for the town or the village near the beach where the ceremony will take place?

GENERAL GRANGE: It's right on the beach. There is no town. There's one small cafe, a little road junction. There's no buildings there.

Q Will there be any German participation of any kind -- governmental or otherwise?

GENERAL GRANGE: There's none that I know of. But, again, we have nothing to do with it. Anything other than United States participation.

Q Will they bring in the honor troops from Germany? From West Germany?

GENERAL GRANGE: American troops?

Q Yes.

GENERAL GRANGE: Yes. It just so happens that out 1st Division is in Germany so those soldiers will be wearing the same patch that went ashore on the 6th of June, 1944, and we'll have some -- we'll have 4th Division soldiers over on Utah Beach.

And there are 2nd -- there's a 2nd Ranger Batallion alive and well today in the United States Army. And we'll have a color guard from the 2nd Ranger Batallion there with the veterans of the 2nd Ranger Batallion of 1944.

Q Sir, were we told you were -- you're the last officer who was active at that point? Could you tell us something about what you did and what you do now?

GENERAL GRANGE: What I did then, I was a PFC. I was a PFC in Italy when D-Day took place. I was in a parachute infantry regiment.

Q And how is it you -- the fact here is that you're the last man on active duty who was also on active duty on D-Day.

GENERAL GRANGE: Not quite true. I'm the last combat infantry soldier left, paratrooper. General Vessey was also in Italy long before I was there. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. And he's -- he's the last -- I guess he and I are the last two combat officers on active duty.

Q Well, what do you do now?

GENERAL GRANGE: I'm the Chairman of this committee. shortly to retire.

Q How old are you?

GENERAL GRANGE: I'm 59. The Secretary already told you how old I was. He gave you that age -- (laughter) -- to fit into -- No sense in lying to you.

Q What is the exact title of this committee?

GENERAL GRANGE: It's the Coordinating Committee for Historical Observances.

Q Did you say there's a cemetery at Utah Beach?

GENERAL GRANGE: No, there is none. Now, you know there are numerous cemeteries in this entire area -- German, Canadian, French and American. And I'm sure they'll all be visited during this period. There are numerous activities that are going to be taking place other than the ones I'm talking about.

Q Well, what is at Utah Beach, then, in a physical sense? Is there some kind of a memorial there or just --

SECRETARY MARSH: Yes, it's going to be dedicated on the 5th --

GENERAL GRANGE: Yes, we're putting a memorial there now. It will be dedicated on the 5th. There is one memorial there -- a small one -- that was put there by a private organization, a very special engineer brigade which landed on Utah Beach on D-Day, 1944. That's a private monument.

Q And the President will do what at Utah?

GENERAL GRANGE: I really can't -- I don't know. He'll be there. I don't think he speaks. He doesn't speak at Utah. He merely attends --

Q There was no trouble organizing a ceremony involving --

GENERAL GRANGE: That's right.

Q -- all the heads of state and he will be one of them?

GENERAL GRANGE: He will be one of them.

Q Can you describe the ceremony to us -- what will happen?

GENERAL GRANGE: As much as I know about it right now, and it changes because it's a French ceremony, the dignitaries -- the heads of state -- are on a reviewing stand facing the sea. They're just forward of the dunes -- in other words, the dunes to their back -- they're facing the sea. So, I guess they will be at low tide, apparently, because they get that tremendous strand out there.

They'll have all the colors in the center -- all the representative nations' colors in the center. There'll be two French units on either side of the colors and then one each going out of all the other nations that are represented with their soldiers.

On both sides, there'll be reserved sections for the veterans -- all nationalities. This is strictly -- there'll be a speech by Mitterand. There'll be certainly honors and the national anthems of all will be played. And then they'll either be a trooping of the line by all the dignitaries, all the heads of state, or there'll be a passing review by a reviewing stand. That hasn't been quite firmed up yet. And then all the troops will go by the reviewing stand.

SECRETARY MARSH: Dave, maybe we'd better make one point here so there's no misunderstanding. There will be an American

monument dedicated at Utah Beach on the day before Normandy, on June 5th. And that monument is being placed there by the American Battlefield Monuments Commission. It's a granite -- how tall is it, Dave?

GENERAL GRANGE: Twenty-four feet tall, and it's red granite and it's -- what did I say? Four feet.

SECRETARY MARSH: So that monument will be there when they get there on the 6th and it will have been dedicated the day before. There's not been one such at Utah.

Q What will be written on the monument?

GENERAL GRANGE: I don't know. I don't know the exact words.

Q What security measures are the French taking against demonstrations? Are there planned demonstrations?

GENERAL GRANGE: I haven't heard of any. I haven't heard of any activities of that nature at all. There are certainly going to be tremendous security measures. In fact, one of the jobs that we have -- one of our missions is to identify -- and we've got a pretty good handle on veterans groups that are coming over. There have been 30 groups identified so far.

That ranges from the 1st Division Association to the Gold Star Mothers to the Disabled American Veterans, the Jewish American Veterans, the Italian American Veterans. All these groups, we're in constant contact with them. We've got a pretty good grip on how many are going to go with their families. There's a pass system.

People who are allowed access to the ceremonies have to go through a metal detector, same precautions you have here. And there are color passes which designate who you are -- whether or not you're a veteran. Veterans get preference. This is their show.

Q Do they have to pass through the detectors? The guests?

GENERAL GRANGE: Of course.

Q The veteran guests?

GENERAL GRANGE: They do.

Q Do you know how many American veterans will be there?

GENERAL GRANGE: We've identified close to 4000 now, but those are ones who are in associations and groups. And these are commercial tour groups. Now, goodness knows how many of them are over there -- out fishing in England, you know, on the 15th of May and decide to rent a car and go to Cherbourg and, you know, come across on a ferry -- or rather go to Portsmouth and come across to Cherbourg on a ferry and then just show up that day.

Q But aren't these closed events?

GENERAL GRANGE:

Q They're not closed?

GENERAL GRANGE: They're not closed as far as getting on the periphery of the ceremonial areas.

Q Like how far away?

GENERAL GRANGE: I really don't know. I think each one is going to have to depend on the terrain, and what the French security people think is safe and prudent.

Q I thought I had

read that the normal tours in this area are all off for the 5th, 6th and 7th.

GENERAL GRANGE: No. Oh, no. We're mailing out blocks of passes to the tour group right now.

Q How long are the ceremonies that you're talking about --

GENERAL GRANGE: -- State Department, a sort of notice to travelers, that if you haven't made reservations ahead of time and are thinking, you know, to casually drop in and see the event and activities of Normandy, pleases don't go, because you're not going to find a place to stay. Reservations will be very difficult, there will be lots of security --

SECRETARY MARSH: They had a question on how long the Utah ceremonies?

Q Yes.

SECRETARY MARSH: How long the Utah ceremonies will be --

GENERAL GRANGE: The Utah ceremony goes for about 60 minutes.

Q -- about an hour --

Q At whose request will people be passing through metal detectors? Is that a request by the U.S. government for security around President Reagan?

GENERAL GRANGE: No, I think -- it's just the normal security precautions --

SECRETARY MARSH: We can't answer that. You'd have to ask someone else.

GENERAL GRANGE: The French -- since they're the hosts, I think that they would certainly want to be sure that it's secure as possible.

Q How many troops participated altogether in the invasion?

GENERAL GRANGE: In the invasion? Ray, do you --

COLONEL SKATES: Let me -- it seems like a simple question, but it's not. It depends on whether you're talking about the 24 hours of D-day itself. And that figure is -- I've seen estimates anywhere from 154,000 to -- the highest I've seen is 155,000. The best estimate's about 80,000 British, 70,000 U.S. And that includes the airborne contingents on D-Day itself.

GENERAL GRANGE: If you take the first wave, less than that.

COLONEL SKATES: Take the first wave, it's less than that. In other words, if you take the assault wave, you're talking about regimental size units, now they were beefed up regiments.

Q That includes all these other little groups, like the Poles and the --

COLONEL SKATES: Right, yes. Yes.

Q And what were the casualties figures of those --

COLONEL SKATES: Again, that's not a simple question.

SECRETARY MARSH: It varies by regiment. The 116th was 841 in the first 24 hours, as I recall.

COLONEL SKATES: That's right. In that regiment -- you see, as he says, 841 people died the first 24 hours --

SECRETARY MARSH: That was total casualties.

COLONEL SKATES: I'm sorry -- total casualties -- that's about one -- almost a fourth --

SECRETARY MARSH: It was 24 percent of the regiment --

COLONEL SKATES: -- of the regiment. There were other regiments -- depending on where you were -- if you were on the right hand side of Omaha Beach you really caught hell. If you were at Utah Beach, you just walked on to shore --

Q Doesn't anyone know how many people died there?

COLONEL SKATES: About 1400 deaths in a 24 hour -- I can give you precise figures on the first week. The problem is pinning down official casualties for that date, because units were -- well, it's just a very complicated question --

Q That's just for the army?

COLONEL SKATES: I'm not trying to dodge any -- it's just a complicated --

Q Was that just the army?

COLONEL SKATES: Those are people on the beaches plus the airborne drop -- force plus the airborne divisions.

Q What was it for the first week, then?

COLONEL SKATES: First week -- I've got that somewhere -- it was 1800, there were 1816 people killed between 6 June and 14 June in the Normandy campaign. Another 9,450 wounded -- in that first week -- and about 7,600, and it seems to me it was about 7,688 -- I'll look it up precisely if you want it -- 7,688 missing.

Q And this includes --

COLONEL SKATES: Now, some of those missing, of course, eventually would be dead, turn up as dead. Well, that's -- again, the only way to put it.

GENERAL GRANGE: You know, a lot of the airborne units -- they didn't have a chance to evacuate anybody for the first 72 hours.

SECRETARY MARSH: And this is true of all the Allied forces --

GENERAL GRANGE: In fact, they rescued, I think, 2,000 people in the one division after 48 hours -- so those guys are out there wounded for several days before they even got to an aid station, so there's no way to report those kind of things.

Q Well, how do these casualties relate to other battles in history? I mean, is it something that was expected -- the casualty rate? Was it exceptionally heavy? Possibly light?

COLONEL SKATES: I think it was -- they expected everywhere except Omaha. And, at -- at Omaha it was heavy for those first wave units --

SECRETARY MARSH: Yes, and those two regiments there -- the 16th, the 116th --

COLONEL SKATES: -- it was very heavy for those regiments. Now again, it depends on what battle you're talking about. In some battles units get -- like the Battle of the Bulge -- units were just

eliminated. I mean, they just disappeared in that German onslaught. And, so -- again, overall the casualties were lighter than they thought they would be.

MR. SIMS: Can we move on to General Barker and then take the rest of your questions, please.

SECRETARY MARSH: General Llyle Barker, our Public Affairs Officer, as you well know, will cover the activities that will take place in the United States. And there are a number of those going on throughout all the major installations here in the United States.

GENERAL BARKER: I'll just take a minute of your time. What I'd like to do is share with you that there are a lot of activities that are taking place in the United States as part of the awareness program, primarily led by veterans organizations. One of the most interesting ones, I think, here in Washington will be this parade that will take place on the Ellipse which will involve all the services and be a special recognition of the events that took place that day.

Also, there will be a major naval exhibit -- by the Navy of combat art at the National Museum.

Just to give you an idea of the representative types of things that are happening around the country, all these events are sponsored or hosted by military organizations that you see here, but with very heavy veterans organization involvement. They involve such things as planting of trees. They're using soil from the Normandy area. But other activities, so that all veterans throughout the country can actively take part in programs commemorating the date. And this just shows you some of the variety.

Throughout the country these things are taking place and being sponsored or hosted by military activities.

Just one other thing I'd like to mention, and that is, a lot of activities are supporting our programs. One of them, for example, the U.S. Football League, another, the Major League Baseball. All planned various types of activities on their games on the 6th or on the Sunday preceding for the U.S. Football League, to commemorate the veterans that participated in these events.

Yes?

Q Has the mention of the Russians been restored to Eisenhower's D-Day Proclamation -- that was stricken by the --

GENERAL BARKER: I really don't know.

Q Where were General Eisenhower and Montgomery at this time? Where were they located?

GENERAL BARKER: What I'm talking about here are those events that will take place -- yes?

Q No, I mean the Utah Beach --

MR. SIMS: Naomi, could we go through his and then get your questions, please.

GENERAL BARKER: Yes. Well, that basically covers -- what I wanted to get across is that there are very large organizational sessions or programs scheduled throughout the country that are designed to allow everybody to participate who desires to participate.

There are school programs, essay contests --you name the type of activity -- sponsored by the military and veterans organizations across the country. That's it.

MR. SIMS: All right. I think we can take some questions. Maybe some of you want to linger with the historian.

Q. Do I understand that we have a kit which has the slides in it -- photographs and so forth?

GENERAL BARKER: Yes. There's a copy of all the visuals that you've seen here. It will be at the door as you leave. We also have some video tapes that we have made available to some of the networks on request. We have them available, and if any of you are interested in those, we can certainly make those available to you.

SECRETARY MARSH: Do you have a -- do you want to use that one now?

He's got one now if you want to see it. It's three minutes.

MR. SIMS: Shall we run the 3-minute one?

Q Yes.

Q Yes.

(Video is shown.)

MR. SIMS: If there are any more general questions, we could take them now. We've taken about an hour of the Secretary and others' time. I might ask -- particularly Colonel Skates if he could stay with you awhile. I'd like to close the briefing and let those who want to ask further questions hang in here, if that's all right.

Any other general questions?

Thank you.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 4:30 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Colleville Sur Mer, France)

For Immediate Release June 6, 1984

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT U.S.-FRENCH CEREMONY COMMEMORATING D-DAY

Omaha Beach
Colleville Sur Mer, France

4:33 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. President, distinguished guests, we stand today at a place of battle, one that 40 years ago saw and felt the worst of war. Men bled and died here for a few feet of -- 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. But 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 humbled by the realization of how much so many gave to the cause of freedom and to their fellow man.

Some who survived the battle of June 6, 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 so often. "In his words, the Normandy Invasion would change his life forever," she said.

She tells some of his stories of World War II, but says of 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 wrote to me, "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 swept 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 are worth fighting and dying for.

Lisa Zanatta Henn began her story by quoting her father, who promised that 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.

END 4:40 P.M. (L)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Normandy, France)

event

For Immediate Release June 6, 1984

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO ASSEMBLED VETERANS AT POINTE DU HOC

Cricqueville, France

1:20 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: We're here to mark that day in history when the Allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For four long years, much of Europe had been under a terrible shadow. Free nations had fallen, Jews cried out in the camps, millions cried out for liberation. Europe was enslaved and the world prayed for its rescue. Here, in Normandy, the rescue began. Here, the Allies stood and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history.

We stand on a lonely, windswept point on the northern shore of France. The air is soft: but 40 years ago at this moment, the air was dense with smoke and the cries of men and the air was filled with the crack of rifle fire and the roar of cannon. At dawn, on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, 225 Rangers jumped off the British landing craft and ran to the bottom of these cliffs. Their mission was one of the most difficult and daring of the Invasion: to climb these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns. The Allies had been told that some of the mightiest of these guns were here and they would be trained on the beaches to stop the Allied advance.

The Rangers looked up and saw the enemy soldiers, the edge of the cliffs shooting down at them with machine guns and throwing grenades. And the American Rangers began to climb. They shot rope ladders over the face of these cliffs and began to pull themselves up. When one Ranger fell, another would take his place. When one rope was cut, a Ranger would grab another and begin his climb again. They climbed, shot back and held their footing. Soon, one by one, the Rangers pulled themselves over the top and in seizing the firm land at the top of these cliffs, they began to seize back the Continent of Europe.

Two hundred and twenty-five came here. After two days of fighting, only 90 could still bear arms.

Behind me is a memorial that symbolizes the Ranger daggers that were thrust into the top of these cliffs. And before me are the men who put them there.

These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. (Applause.) These are the men who took the cliffs. These are the champions who helped free a continent. These are the heroes who helped end a war.

MORE

Gentlemen, I look at you and I think of the words of Stephen Spender's poem. You are men who in your "lives fought for life . . . and left the vivid air signed with your honor."

I think I know what you may be thinking right now: Thinking "we were just part of a bigger effort; everyone was brave that day." Well, everyone was. Do you remember the story of Bill Millin of the 51st Highlanders? Forty years ago today, British troops were pinned down near a bridge, waiting desperately for help. Suddenly, they heard the sound of bagpipes, and some thought they were dreaming. Well, they weren't. They looked up and saw Bill Millin with his bagpipes, leading the reinforcements and ignoring the smack of the bullets into the ground around him.

Lord Lovat was with him -- Lord Lovat of Scotland who calmly announced when he got to the bridge: "Sorry I'm a few minutes late," as if he'd been delayed by a traffic jam, when in truth he'd just come from the bloody fighting on Sword Beach which he and men had just taken.

There was the impossible valor of the Poles who threw themselves between the enemy and the rest of Europe as the invasion took hold. And the unsurpassed courage of the Canadians who had already seen the horrors of war on this coast. They knew what awaited them there, but they would not be deterred. And once they hit Juno Beach, they never looked back.

All of these men were part of a rollcall of honor with names that spoke of a pride as bright as the colors they bore: The Royal Winnipeg Rifles, Poland's 24th Lancers, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the Screaming Eagles, the Yeomen of England's armored divisions, the forces of Free France, the Coast Guard's "Matchbox Fleet" and you, the American Rangers.

Forty summers have passed since the battle that you fought here. You were young the day you took these cliffs; some of you were hardly more than boys, with the deepest joys of life before you. Yet, you risked everything here. Why? Why did you do it? What impelled you to put aside the instinct for self-preservation and risk your lives to take these cliffs? What inspired all the men of the armies that met here?

We look at you, and somehow we know the answer. It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love.

The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead -- or on the next. It was the deep knowledge, and pray God we have not lost it, that there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. You were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so you and those others did not doubt your cause. And you were right not to doubt.

You all knew that some things are worth dying for: one's country is worth dying for; and democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man. All of you loved liberty; all of you were willing to fight tyranny; and you knew the people of your countries were behind you.

The Americans who fought here that morning knew word of the Invasion was spreading through the darkness back home. They fought -- or felt in their hearts, though they couldn't know in fact, that in Georgia they were filling the churches at 4:00 a.m., in Kansas they were kneeling on their porches and praying, and in Philadelphia they were ringing the Liberty Bell.

Something else helped the men of D-Day: Their rockhard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here; that God was an ally in this great cause. And, so, the night before the Invasion, when Colonel Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them: Do not bow your heads but look up so you can see God and ask His blessing in what we're about to do. Also that night, General Matthew Ridgway on his cot, listening in the darkness for the promise God made to Joshua: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

These are the things that impelled them; these are the things that shaped the unity of the Allies.

When the war was over, there were lives to be rebuilt and governments to be returned to the people. There were nations to be reborn. Above all, there was a new peace to be assured. These were huge and daunting tasks. But the Allies summoned strength from the faith, belief, loyalty and love of those who fell here. They rebuilt a new Europe together.

There was first a great reconciliation among those who had been enemies, all of whom had suffered so greatly. The United States did its part, creating the Marshall Plan to help rebuild our allies and our former enemies. The Marshall Plan led to the Atlantic Alliance -- a great alliance that serves to this day as our shield for freedom, for prosperity, and for peace.

In spite of our great efforts and successes, not all that followed the end of the war was happy, or planned. Some liberated countries were lost. The great sadness of this loss echoes down to our own time in the streets of Warsaw, Prague, and East Berlin. Soviet troops that came to the center of this continent did not leave when peace came. They're still there, uninvited, unwanted, unyielding, almost 40 years after the war.

Because of this, allied forces still stand on this continent. Today, as 40 years ago, our armies are here for only one purpose -- to protect and defend democracy. The only territories we hold are memorials like this one and graveyards where our heroes rest.

We in America have learned bitter lessons from two world wars: It is better to be here ready to protect the peace, than to take blind shelter across the sea, rushing to respond only after freedom is lost. We've learned that isolationism never was and never will be an acceptable response to tyrannical governments with an expansionist intent.

But we try always to be prepared for peace; prepared to deter aggression; prepared to negotiate the reduction of arms; and, yes, prepared to reach out again the spirit of reconciliation. In truth, there is no reconciliation we would welcome more than a reconciliation with the Soviet Union, so, together, we can lessen the risks of war, now and forever.

It's fitting to remember here the great losses also suffered by the Russian people during World War II: 20 million perished, a terrible price that testifies to all the world the necessity of ending war. I tell you from my heart that we, in the United States do not want war. We want to wipe from the face of the earth the terrible weapons that man now has in his hands. And I tell you, we are ready to seize that beachhead -- we look for some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, and that they will give up the ways of conquest. There must be a changing there that will allow us to turn our hope into action.

We will pray forever that some day that changing will come. But for now, particularly today, it is good and fitting to renew our commitment to each other, to our freedom, and to the alliance that protects it.

We are bound today by what bound us 40 years ago, the same loyalties, traditions, and beliefs. We're bound by reality. The strength of America's allies is vital to the United States, and the American security guarantee is essential to the continued freedom of Europe's democracies. We were with you then; we are with you now. Your hopes are our hopes, and your destiny is our destiny.

Here, in this place where the West held together, let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for; let our actions say to them the words for which Matthew Ridgway listened: "I will not fail them nor forsake thee."

Strengthened by their courage, heartened by their valor, and borne by their memory, let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they lived and died.

Thank you very much and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END 1:35 P.M. (L)

CURRENT NEWS
SPECIAL EDITION

EXTRA EDITION

PART I of Six Parts

D-Day + 40 Years

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NEW YORK TIMES 10 April 1984 Pg. 2

June 6, '84: Normandy Awaits Army of Ageless G.I.'s

By JON NORDHEIMER
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, April 9 — A New York City homicide detective who worked on the Son of Sam case will be there. So will an Episcopal minister from Alabama.

A woman who never knew her father, who died there, will make the trip. Another, whose husband was killed on the first day, will be there. Their son will not be there. He died in Vietnam.

They are among the thousands of Americans who will be with President Reagan, Queen Elizabeth II, President François Mitterrand and Canadian officials when old allies gather on the French beaches at Normandy on June 6 to mark the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

World War II veterans, their families, military units and security personnel are scheduled to descend on the Normandy coast that day for a sentimental and reverent visit to the battlefield that opened the Second Front.

Another Chance for Many

Thousands of other American veterans are expected over the course of the summer to retrace their steps through other battlefields in France, the Netherlands and Belgium. It will be a chance to get one more look at places that represented the greatest personal tests of their lives. They had stormed ashore at Normandy as young men, many still in their teens. And now they are returning to the beaches and fields where it seemed that the fate of the world hung in the balance in the summer of 1944.

"Everyone who was there the first time wants to make this trip if they can," said Don Lassen of Atlanta, editor of Static Line, a monthly publication circulated to about 15,000 United States paratroop veterans.

Plans Still Not Settled

The number of American veterans planning to visit Normandy is placed at 10,000 or more. No central office is coodinating their travel plans, so the numbers that will actually materialize is largely a matter of guesswork.

Reports on the number of visitors expected at Normandy on D-Day have ranged up to 30,000 on 1,000 buses. Plans for the official ceremonies at the landing beaches on the anniversary day are still unsettled. The vast security problems posed by the appearance of Mr. Reagan, the Queen and Mr

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USA TODAY 10 April 1984 Pg. 1

COVER STORY

USA veterans flock back on anniversary

'It's our chance — maybe our last chance — to relive what happened,' says vet, 73

By Richard Price
USA TODAY

The Rev. George Wood will look for the French schoolhouse where he crouched that morning while German guns blazed a hundred yards away. William Vandermay will scan the waterfront for signs of the concrete port he helped haul across the English Channel that afternoon. Samuel Boswell will find the stretch of sand on Utah Beach where he picked up wounded paratroopers that night and "never saw so many broken legs in my life."

Forty years after they left the beaches and hedgerows of Normandy, these D-Day veterans are going back — and they won't find the going lonely. With a suddenness that has surprised governments and delighted travel agents, thousands of American men who fought there — along with the families of men who died there — are preparing to launch the *second* D-Day invasion.

"Call it a sentimental journey," says Wood, a 73-year-old

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JACK EISEN

* * *

A Day to Remember

Here's a resolution, introduced in Congress by a local legislator, that seems sure of passage. Sen. John W. Warner (R-Va.) has proposed that June 6 be designated as D-Day National Remembrance Day, noting the invasion of Europe 40 years ago that led to the defeat of the Axis.

In introducing the measure, Warner noted that 37 members of the Senate, himself included, are veterans of World War II. Obviously, I'm aging: I would have thought the number would have been larger. But when I became a Capitol Hill reporter for this paper, there still was one Spanish-American War veteran serving in the House.

* * *

USA VETERANS...Continued

priest in Huntsville, Ala. "It's our chance — maybe our last chance — to relive what happened."

What happened June 6, 1944 was a cross-channel attack on the Normandy coast by 5,000 ships, 11,000 aircraft and 153,000 troops from the USA, Britain and Canada. The frontal assault — code-named Operation Overlord — cleared the way for the Allies to storm Europe.

This year's invasion promises to be almost as massive as the original. For the June 6 commemoration ceremony in Normandy, up to 25,000 American veterans are expected.

Add to that a minimum of 100,000 tourists and as many as eight heads of state, including President Reagan, Queen Elizabeth II, French President Mitterrand and Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau. (That promises a big media turnout; NBC's *Today* show plans to televise from Normandy.) A special Pentagon office is supervising USA participation.

Hotels have been sold out for a year and tour agencies have been overwhelmed by veterans. Galaxy Tours of King of Prussia, Pa., which has offered battlefield tours since 1960, is setting records this year — 2,000 signed up for the June 6 tour alone.

Few expected all the fuss over a 40th anniversary; the French government didn't step in to take planning away from community leaders in Normandy until late last year. But the average D-Day veteran is retired and 65 — young enough to travel, too old to wait a decade. So across the nation, they've made this the year.

They are a proud bunch — but the pride is in their units more than in themselves. It's always the other guy who had it worse. "I didn't do a thing," says Col. Jack Rhoades, 69, of San Antonio, Texas. He merely commanded a regiment that stormed Utah Beach.

They glorify the past, as every generation does, but they don't glorify the invasion. They remember it as a bloody day, dirty and frightening and full of loss. Most still take it seriously. The mission that William Kelly, 71, of Hobe Sound, Fla., went on was top secret for so long that he still can't bring himself to discuss it. "Force of habit," he explains.

All have their own reasons for going back. Wood is drawn by the belief that the French "appreciate what we did." When he and 200 members of 82nd Airborne Division arrive, the village of Ste. Mere-Eglise will dedicate a stained-glass church window: Virgin Mary surrounded by descending paratroopers.

Wood was a chaplain with the 82nd when they jumped — Overlord used 13,500 paratroopers — the night of June 5, 1944, capturing Ste. Mere-Eglise and then fighting off a German attack.

He remembers bending over a paratrooper and begging him to accept blood plasma. The man refused, preferring death to living with both feet shot off. Recalls Wood, "I finally had to leave him and go on to someone else."

Vandermay, 66, who lives in Portland, Ore., wants to see "all the ruins." Vandermay served in the invasion's major engineering feat: the artificial ports created in "Operation Mulberry." Crews along England's coast built 145 huge hollow concrete pontoons, which were floated across the channel and fastened into a breakwater. (Some pontoons remain.)

Boswell, 62, wants to see what France looks like without the blood. He set out from England that day as a field artillery technician but shifted to instant medic when his ship was converted to a Red Cross ferry. "I saw it one way then," says the Rocky Mount, N.C., resident. "I want to see it another way now."

Hundreds of women are making the pilgrimage to stand by the graves they've thought about for 40 years. "I can't wait. I'm just on cloud nine because I'm finally going to close the distance between us," says Varina Landry, 64, who spent just 10 days with her first husband before he was killed during the invasion. In her safety deposit box is the map he sent — she'll take it along for the trip.

Annette Seery of Akron, Ohio, who lost a husband at Normandy and a son in Vietnam, will visit her husband's grave at St. Lowell. She's still proud of her lieutenant, who served on Dwight Eisenhower's staff. "It was his outfit," says Seery, 63, "that went in ahead of D-Day and marked the beaches."

For every person going, hundreds more wish they could. "I would love to, but I just can't afford it," says John English, 74. Still, he has a bit of Normandy at his Riverside, Calif. home — a vial of sand from Omaha Beach. Jokes English, "I brought a lot of it back in my nose."

At least one man had to be drafted into returning. Bob Organ of Lodi, Calif., spent D-Day in England as a hospital corpsman. He never really considered going back: "The war was something that had to be done but it's over and I don't talk about it."

But the Southampton (England) City Council changed that. Seeking a fresh angle for the hundreds of observances this summer, they put his name in worldwide headlines last year as part of a search for the "blue-eyed, blonde-haired, hunk of American masculinity" who sang at the city's Guildhall during the war. When the story showed up in *The Sacramento Union*, Organ was rediscovered.

A Southampton delegation came to Lodi to make their pitch. Now the man who sang just to pass the nights in blacked-out England is flying back — four airlines bid for the honor — to do a June 3 concert at the Guildhall. Says the 70-year-old Organ: "It's a fairy tale."

NORMANDY... Continued

Mitterrand at ceremonies on beaches and at military cemeteries connected by 50 miles of narrow provincial roads are causing confusion and dismay.

"Plans have been changed 40 times over the past month," said Charles Barbier, an official in Normandy whose department is faced with handling the influx of visitors.

Local accommodations for the first 10 days in June have long been booked and local officials are advising anyone wishing to visit Normandy this year to avoid this period.

Overbooking Called Terrible

"The situation now is that there's terrible overbooking and the Channel ferries from England are all filled up," said Valmai Holt, who with her husband, a former British Army officer, operate Major and Mrs. Holt's Battlefield Tours.

"There seems to be very little coordination and events are being timed so that they clash," she said. "Secret Service men will be lurking behind every bush. The poor veterans are going to be very lucky to get a look in at the ceremonies by the time the V.I.P.'s and the troops get in."

She said that traffic was so bad at the last major D-Day anniversary, in 1969, that visitors who started out from their hotels at 9 A.M. to reach scheduled events later in the morning at Utah Beach did not reach the beach until the late afternoon.

For many American veterans the D-Day observances will begin in English cities and towns where they were billeted during training and the buildup for the invasion. The ports of Southampton and Portsmouth and other seacoast towns from where the invasion fleet sailed are planning special celebrations.

In Southampton, for instance, June 2 has been set aside as a British-American reunion on the eve of the sailing, with jitterbug dancing and a concert by Vera Lynn, the English singer closely identified with the war and its popular ballads of heartbreak and separation.

Some to Stay in Private Homes

Strong ties still exist between the G.I.'s and the residents of English and French towns who were brought together by the war.

A group of 150 World War II veterans of the 82d Airborne Division will spend several days in private homes around Leicester, England, where the paratroopers trained.

Bill Woodward, a Leicester resident who heads the United Kingdom Chapter of the C-47 Club, a group formed by 82d Airborne veterans who had made one or more combat jumps, said there were still "strong feelings of esteem and affection" among the older residents.

"I know all about these 'overpaid,

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D-DAY NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman from Kansas rise?

Mr. WINN. Mr. Speaker, because of the noise in the Chamber, it has been called to my attention that I objected to House Joint Resolution 487, the D-day National Remembrance. I withdraw that objection.

The SPEAKER. It is too late to withdraw the objection.

Does the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HALL) wish to renew the request?

Mrs. HALL of Indiana. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service be discharged from futher consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 487) to designate June 6, 1984, as "D-day National Remembrance," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

H.J. RES. 487

Whereas June 6, 1984, marks the fortieth anniversary of D-day, the day of the beginning of the Allied assault at Normandy, France;

Whereas the D-day assault was the most extensive amphibious operation ever to occur, involving on the first day of the operation five thousand ships, eleven thousand sorties of Allied aircraft, and one hundred and fifty-three thousand American, British, and Canadian troops;

Whereas American troops suffered significant losses during the assault, including one thousand four hundred and sixty-five dead, three thousand one hundred and eighty-four wounded, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight missing in action, and twenty-six captured; and

Whereas the D-day assault was among the most critical events of World War II since its success led ultimately to the Allied victory in Europe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That June 6, 1984, is designated as "D-day National Remembrance", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

● Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago today, some of the finest military officers in the U.S. Army and Navy were involved with our British allies in the final planning and preparations for the greatest amphibious landing in the history of the world.

History remembers many dates and many events. Yet few dates and few events are as remembered as D-day—June 6, 1944—the day on which the Allied invasion of Normandy began. Operation "Overlord," the Allied invasion of France, marked the beginning of the final push against Nazi Germany that brought the horrors and atrocities of the Second World War to a final conclusion less than a year later.

For millions of Americans, Omaha, Juno, Utah, Gold, and Sword are more than just words, they symbolize the beaches on which over 9,000 American, British, French, and Canadian troops gave their lives on that June 6, 40 years ago. That military operation involved great risks, but it also held great promise for bringing an end to a war that engulfed the world. Over 150,000 soldiers were involved in the first day of the battle. Some of the finest military minds and ground commanders were involved in that operation—George Marshall, Dwight Eisenhower, Omar Bradley, Sir Bernard Montgomery, among others.

Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate that this House pass legislation calling upon all Americans to commemorate and remember that day. I thank the more than 230 of my colleagues in the House who have joined me in cosponsoring this resolution to commemorate D-day. I commend my distinguished colleague from Indiana (Mrs HALL), for her help in quickly bringing this to the floor of the House so we will have adequate time to mark this commemoration.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution which is up for consideration in the House today not only honors the men of D-day, it also honors the spirit in which they served. D-day has become a symbol of the bravery, courage, and self-sacrifice of the thousands of men and women who fought to preserve our democratic way of life and to restore it to Western Europe. It is important that we remember the sacrifices they made in order that we might live in a free society.●

● Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my distinguished colleague from California (Mr. TOM LANTOS), for introducing House Joint Resolution 487, to designate June 6, 1984 as "D-day National Remembrance." I was delighted to join as a cosponsor of this resolution when it was first introduced, and I strongly support its enactment.

Mr. Speaker, many battles were fought to preserve freedom in World War II but one battle will never be forgotten. It occurred on June 6, 1944, when American and allied forces joined together to regain a foothold in Europe. June 6, 1984, marks the 40th anniversary of D-day, the date of the allied assault on Normandy, France.

This assault involved over 5,000 naval vessels; 11,000 sorties of allied aircraft; and 153,000 American, British, and Canadian troops. It was probably the most comprehensive and complex plan ever undertaken by our military leaders. It was carried out with dispatch. Within 24 hours from the time it was launched the allied troops had breached Hitler's much propagandized Atlantic Wall.

The price we pay for freedom, Mr. Speaker, is high. The losses in both men and material were heavy during the Normandy invasion. Allied casualties totaled more than 10,200. American troops suffered 1,465 killed, 3,184 wounded, and 1,928 missing in action.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my distinguished colleague from California in supporting this resolution. In my view, D-day is one of the most significant dates in the history of the United States.●

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NORMANDY... Continued

oversexed and over here' attitudes about the Americans at the time but it was mostly in jest," Mr. Woodward said.

In Ste.-Mère-Eglise, Normandy, the first town liberated when 82d Airborne paratroopers landed in the village square just after midnight on June 6, the same warmth also exists.

'Very Emotional Experience'

"This is about the only town in France with a tight relationship with Americans," said Philippe Jutras, an American World War II veteran who has returned to Ste.-Mère-Eglise to live.

Andy Kilcullen, a retired Brooklyn homicide detective, will be one of the 150 C-47 Club veterans making this year's pilgrimage to Ste.-Mère-Eglise.

"It's a very emotional experience for anyone who was there," Mr. Kilcullen said by telephone from Florida. He said two other former New York police officers who were in the 82d and made the jump were going back with him.

He recalls the early hours of the invasion vividly and the jump into the blackness of a Norman field. The wrong field, as it turned out.

He was captured by the Germans 18 hours later, taken to Germany and imprisoned. He escaped several months later and made his way through Poland and into the Ukraine and eventual repatriation.

After that, he said, Brooklyn murder and mayhem seemed a breeze.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR 18 April 1984 Pg. 1

'What awe!' One reporter recalls the D-Day invasion

By Richard L. Strout
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

IN April 1944, The Christian Science Monitor assigned me to cover the coming D-Day landing in France. I bought an Army uniform with "War Correspondent" sewn on the shoulder and took passage on a secret air service that ran between Baltimore and Britain.

After a few weeks of make-believe runs around England with a swarm of other waiting correspondents (to throw the enemy off the scent), I found myself assigned to the heavy cruiser USS Quincy, Capt. Elliott M. Senn commanding. On June 4, at 2 p.m., as the Quincy moved stealthily across the English Channel, one in a single line of capital ships flanked by outriders, I was wondering how a sedentary reporter could get himself into such a fix.

The sky is overcast. The sea is lead-colored but quiet. There is hardly any wind. Last night we started out in a gale and then turned back dejectedly because of violent weather. This time meteorologists say there will be maybe 36 hours of passable weather — just enough for an invasion on which the course of history may turn.

Yesterday, Supreme Commander Dwight Eisenhower issued an exhortation fit for Shakespeare's "Henry V": "Once more into the breach, dear friends, once more," aimed at troops and posterity, only to have weather spoil it. Should he again risk the trial with 4,000 craft? No eloquent harangue this time, but words that unleashed the greatest invasion in history: "OK, let's go."

It is 5 p.m., June 5. We have overtaken and are passing the landing-craft fleet formerly seen on the horizon, making slow headway, and seemingly pulled along by its barrage balloons. They are chock-full of vehicles and assault troops. I am headed for Easy Green Beach, with majestic Anglo-American vessels with singing names: the Nevada, the Texas, the Tuscaloosa . . . the Arethusa, the Warspite, the Black Prince.

Day and afternoon pass down the channel. Something marvelous is going on. All the world's ships are moving our way. We have hoisted a clean battle flag.

7 p.m.: The loudspeaker has a message from the task force. "I will read it," the voice says. It is terse and without false heroics. "Let's put the Navy ball over for a touchdown," it concludes. The sailors chuckle. We are all scared, I think, but competing not to show it. And now the chaplain offers a final prayer. All over the ship, men pause with bared heads:

Normandy on D-Day

Our help is in the Lord.
Ask and it shall be given, seek and ye shall find.

We are taut and tense; there is nothing lonelier than being among 200,000 men. Some break the suspense with horseplay. England fades behind us.

Close to shore moves another flotilla. Members of the crew, some in their teens, look at my shoulder tabs and ask me how things are going. I hope I exude confidence. "Does the enemy know?" we all ask. No sign yet, but there are distant flashes all the time from the land ahead. Around midnight we pass a buoy — a pinprick of light left by a mine sweeper to show the cleared channel: We are being watched over in the gloom. Nothing so far has so moved me.

Zero hour will be 6:30 a.m., June 6. There are last-minute preparations. Some men sit in cramped compartments; others write letters. Voices are cheerful. I come down to my cubicle, give the "war correspondent" in my looking glass a glare, and inspect my new gear. One neat gadget is an illuminated floating flashlight for if I fall overboard. There is a metal toy cricket to communicate with friends if I get stranded on shore. There's a whistle, too. If I fall in, I whistle, flash the light, and chirp.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

D-DAY INVASION...Continued

I turn in for a final nap.

10:30 p.m.: The boatswain just piped, "All hands, man your battle stations." The bugle blows, "General quarters." It has begun.

Where is the enemy? We have waited for a response every minute. Is it possible that this is a surprise? Of course, pathfinder planes have been going over with parachutists all this time, but the extent of the operation is masked. Later on, we learn the enemy is confused. They are sure the attack will come elsewhere. The Führer sleeps. The night is overcast. Somewhere up there, the moon is one night from being full.

2 a.m., June 6: For an hour, planes have gone over; I suppose they are carrying more parachutists. Ahead, in Normandy, activity goes on that we can't read. I pause a minute: Back in Washington now it is 7 p.m. (I think). The family is finishing supper; doing homework. . . . We are moving half-speed ahead into history.

3 a.m.: We have arrived (wherever that is). Our big vessels take assigned positions for a bombardment when it comes. Now the sound overhead is like an express train. I dictate my account of the story to Chief Yeoman Charles Kidder. By now, I can see the face on my watch.

Later: We are going in still closer — four miles off shore now, all nine of our big guns are pointed and ready. Last night, this was a lonely beach. Now returning light shows one of the greatest armadas ever collected. Not just warships, but strange, indescribable craft, some invented for the occasion. We have towed a harbor with us (or parts of it) to be bolted together here after we have silenced shore batteries, knocked down a sea wall, and sent soldiers splashing over those half-submerged obstacles. The end of an odd craft folds into the water, and an amphibious vehicle swims or waddles down. Men on the boats drop into icy water.

5:30 a.m.: It's come. We are to give them full bombardment. The ship jolts and jumps. We crouch behind the rail first . . . are bolder now. It goes on.

More light every second. Shore batteries leave us alone so far. They are interested in the landing craft coming at them.

The most scientifically ingenious job of destruction is now going on against shore fortifications, along with the simultaneous constructive fitting together of parts of the portable harbor that we have towed over and that now waits opportunity to assemble. For a journalist, the trouble is that the show goes on and on. It has no respect for deadlines. Don't they know that I have editions to make in Boston?

I take a final look at the quaint little French village nestled there beside the cliffs (one house burning), then go below to my cubicle. I attack the problem of describing an invasion. How do you start it? It must somehow be got up to London and passed through the censor. I have a French-speaking typewriter that jumps around on the chair.

The battle goes on through the day. Elsewhere, brave men are fighting. We are quiet now. We are, I think, winning the battle. A British Broadcasting Corporation voice over the radio sounds cheerful and says the world is watching. But here it is a bore. Just distant guns. I can always go back to my cubicle and read Walter Scott's "Red Gauntlet." The crew gets permission to wage target-practice on a floating buoy. There are cheers when they hit. The battle rages somewhere else.

One more scene in this nostalgic view of D-Day, recollected years later. It is 11 p.m. The early bombers have dropped parachutists into trees and hedgerows. The brave landing parties have waded ashore and begun to group for land attack. The big Anglo-American bombarding fleet has poured in its lethal fire at close range, off Utah and Omaha and other beaches. Now a new sound . . . a dominant roar that approaches.

It is a line of big planes from over in England that never stops coming. See, each plane tows a glider! It is a breathtaking sight. They pass right over us. They come from horizon to horizon in a great crescent. Our emotions choke us. There is a second line now, and now the first is coming back — without the gliders. We can look up and see the tethering cord that holds each glider to its mother ship, taut as a fiddle string. It is a fantasy out of the future, with the dash and élan of a Civil War cavalry charge. What awe. Who can doubt any longer of ultimate victory! It has lasted with me for 40 years.

KANSAS CITY TIMES
26 April 1984
Pg. B-1

Times is looking for D-Day vets to mark milestone

Forty years ago June 6, thousands of American soldiers joined Canadian, British and other forces for the pivotal point of World War II in Europe: the D-Day invasion of northern France.

To mark the anniversary of what has come to be known as "The Longest Day," several thousand American veterans of that invasion are expected to take a sentimental journey back to France. Most of the leaders of the Western world also plan to be at Normandy on June 6.

The Kansas City Times is planning extensive coverage of the European reunions and would like to know the names of area veterans planning to return for the anniversary.

If you know of a veteran from the area who is planning to attend the Normandy reunion in June, please call Steve Shirk, Mid-America editor for *The Times*, at 234-4325 or 234-4329 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SMITHSONIAN MAY 1984 Pages 132-140

Beyond is the heavily defended beach, all but obscured by the smoke from a predawn naval bombardment.

D Day remembered: 'a brief afterglow of battle survived'

By Thomas H. Wolf

An American correspondent recreates the greatest invasion in history, seen from a U.S. destroyer firing off Utah Beach

5 JUN '44—1345 HOURS
TO: ALL SHIPS—ALL TROOPS
FROM: COMTASKFOR 125
THE GREATEST INVASION IN HISTORY IS UNDER WAY X WE ARE HONORED TO BE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF IT X SOON WE WILL MEET THE ENEMY IN THE MOST VITAL BATTLE IN MODERN TIMES AND WE WILL DEFEAT HIM X VICTORY AWAITS US AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CHANNEL X PUT HOME THAT ARMY TOUCHDOWN X GOD SPEED AND GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU

D Day—the time when the free world hurled its might, its treasure and the lives of its young men and women against the most powerful fortress ever erected: *Festung Europa*. Everyone knows the big picture. This is the little picture.

I was a correspondent aboard the destroyer USS *Herndon* when Rear Adm. Don Pardee Moon's fight signal was distributed to "all ships" of Assault Force U (for Utah), somewhere in the English Channel a few hours before H Hour. The D Day I remember 40 years later seems much like the admiral's message, comic in its way, but inspiring—and very American. On the flickering screen of memory, images of valor and magnificent achievement share a place with groveling fear and glorious snafu.

For me, D Day really begins in a small office in London's West End on the last day of May 1944. There are three correspondents present, and the officer

Mr. Wolf, now in his 50th year in journalism, was a Scripps Howard reporter in World War II. He is a former vice president of ABC News.

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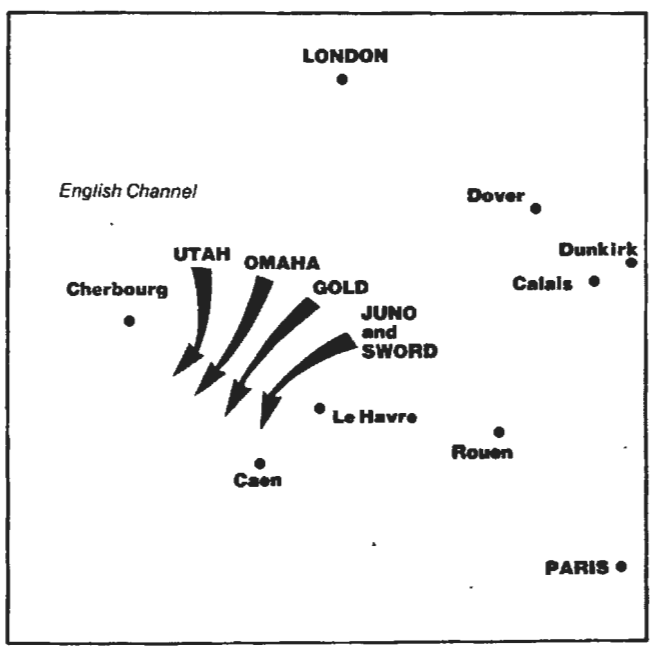
Remembering the invasion of Normandy

who tells us where we're going really does say, "OK, fellows, this is it." What "it" means to me is the start of a fear-filled eternity that is to last until I am back in London. Like everyone to whom I spoke during the next two weeks, half the time I was certain I was destined to die.

The inevitability of that fate becomes clear next morning. We are flown to Belfast in Northern Ireland to board ships of the Assault Force's Bombardment Group, and our captains invite us to attend a briefing aboard the USS *Tuscaloosa*. Most of the 18 ships present are American, but there are four British cruisers and a Dutch gunboat. The biggest is the U.S. battleship *Nevada* (p. 137), the smallest, two American destroyer escorts. The *Herndon* is one of eight destroyers.



Arrows indicate the Anglo-American beaches; destroyer *Herndon* was between Utah and Omaha.

The first thing to greet the 50-odd officers and three correspondents entering the briefing room is a huge map on the wall. There, snuggled right up against the coast of Normandy, with no room between them and the shore, are 18 numbered ships—us.

During the hour-long briefing, not even the sound of breathing can be heard as the senior officers are told about Operation Overlord. Our role is simply to sail to within a few thousand yards of occupied Europe's vaunted "Atlantic Wall," silence its guns and then support with artillery from the sea the Allied troops storming their way ashore. As for the *Herndon* herself, she is to have the honor of being the first Allied fighting ship into the Bay of the Seine. When she reaches her position, she will be midway between two beaches labeled "Omaha" and "Utah" on the wall map.

Work table, mess table, operating table

Afterward, questions are asked and answered—sometimes not very convincingly. I remember phrases like "We have every reason to believe" and "Our intelligence tells us . . ." punctuated now and then with a simple "We really don't know." Back aboard the *Herndon*, the skipper, Lt. Comdr. Granville A. Moore, USN, walks into the small wardroom and breaks up the joshing and awed speculation by snapping "Let's stop this bull session and start the big one."

In the middle of the wardroom is the object I remember best about the *Herndon*: a huge table covered in green baize which serves as work table, mess table and, in battle, operating table for the wounded. Now as the men crowd around, on it are placed the orders for Operation Overlord—22 sections and three amendments. The thoroughness with which these monographs describe enemy positions is still amazing to me. (By then I already knew something about the detail of our operational planning. An example: for the Rhine River crossing projected for spring 1945, our Services of Supply were working on a plan to round up enough German police bitches so that a full platoon of them would be in heat, all with a view of distracting the dogs guarding the historic river.)

Herndon weighs 1,650 tons and is only one of 4,000 ships taking part in the largest cross-water assault in history. Yet the information which the planners believed it pertinent for the ship to know is as thick as a Manhattan phone directory. My notes do not record the number of pages, but I did copy the description of just one of the five enemy positions our guns were supposed to "silence":

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Orderly columns of troop-carrying LCIs, towing barrage balloons to discourage low-level air attack, head toward France. Along with smaller LCVPs, each LCI carried about 200 infantrymen to the beaches.

> Coordinates 155G, 25000. Originally open emplacements, heavily earth-banked. Four casemates u/c [uncovered]. Range falls approximately 2,000 yards short of Iles St. Marcouf [where detachments of the 4th and 24th Cavalry squadrons are scheduled to clamber ashore] and north limit of beach [Utah], but covers swept area for gunfire-support ships [e.g., the *Herndon*]. Casemate construction started in March, laid out radially facing bearing 347 degrees. . . . It is possible that even though four guns may be placed in the casemates before they are finished, the two remaining guns may be maintained in their original emplacements for all-around fire.

The *Herndon*'s job is to take out five such positions. One has three pillboxes, a casemate, three shelters. Another is a wired and mined infantry position. A third, two 105-millimeter guns. Altogether, we are assigned nine pillboxes.

Pinned on the bulkhead of the wardroom is a photograph of Grandcamp-les-Bains, directly in front of which we will be stationed. Without even the trace of a smirk, a crewman says, "Looks just like my home town." The next day seems peaceful, all right, but it turns out to be the worst day I had yet lived through. It is only 24 hours until we sail, but for many of us there is nothing to do but think about the coming dangers. We are anchored in Belfast Lough. How near and yet (quarantined) how far! "We'll be twice as near when it's for real—in baldheaded row," the executive officer remarks, combining visions of German shore batteries and the chorus line at Minsky's.

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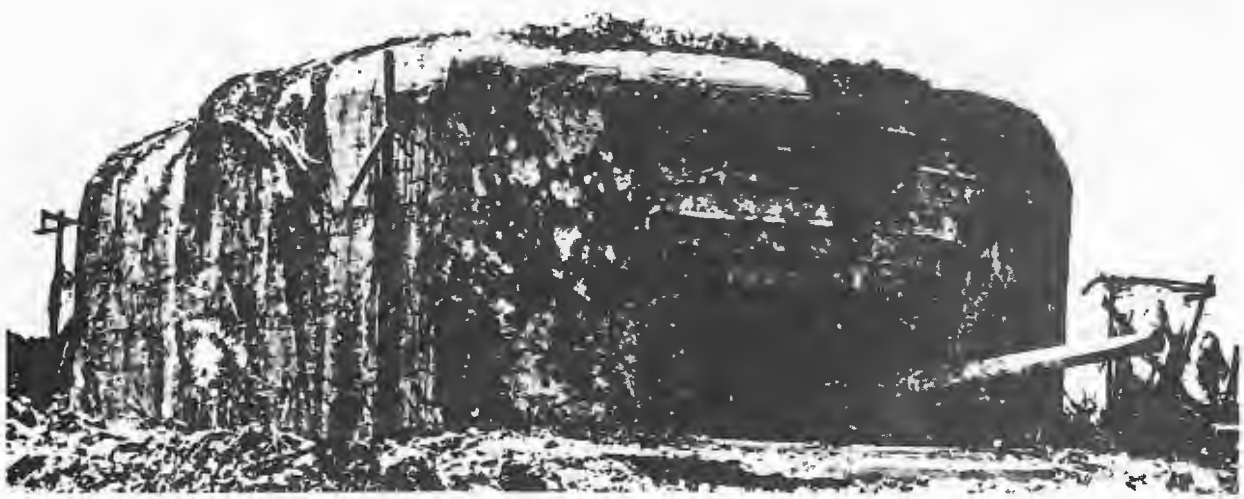

Heavy German gun emplacement, put out of action by naval fire during the D Day operation, was typical of the solid defenses that the Nazis had spent years building for protection of the French coastline.

Lumbering pontoon ferries, known as Rhinos, carried tanks and bulldozers from heavy ships to the shore.

Today, 40 years later, it's hard to remember how formidable Hitler's Europe then seemed. It was all very well to tell yourself that at least part of the Atlantic Wall was built of Goebbels' propaganda. But you couldn't help wondering. Aboard *Herndon*, we wonder. Each member of the crew has his own notion of what horror lies ahead. Some fear mines most. Others, shore batteries. Still others the Luftwaffe, with its screaming dive-bombers. Many believe that Hitler has been saving poison gas for just this moment. My own thoughts turn to a sea of fire, fueled by tons of oil —the greeting Britain had thought of preparing for the Nazis in 1940-41 when the invasion shoe had been on the other foot. (After the war, Adm. Samuel Eliot Morison would write that "casualties from mine explosions exceeded those from all other causes.") A whale boat from our sister ship, USS *Corry*, pulls alongside and we are offered bets at ten-to-one we won't make it back. One wit, a *Herndon* officer, thinks we won't even make it there.

How each man handles fear varies with his personality. I take to my bunk and lie there for long periods, sweat streaming from every pore. My notes show an attempt to sort out my feelings: "Everybody knows we'll be lucky to bring the ship back. Is this feeling shared by all seamen on eve of battle? . . . Mentally enjoy courage and boldness of invasion plan, but that doesn't ease knot in stomach. . . . Hope our bombers do their stuff. Also that they don't bomb short!"

That night there are Confederate flags on deck and in the wardroom. The movie is *Roxie Hart*, with Ginger Rogers. My notes add: "Prep school atmosphere."

Saturday, June 3. I mark it "D Minus Two," and note "0930-1030. In wardroom, an argument about British navy. How good is it really?"I am not a naval expert but I know of engagements during this war in which the Germans have turned tail rather than trying to find the answer to that question. The next argument concerns why we fight. M. says: "Politics. Foresee Anglo-Russian postwar war." And I write: "All wonder about Russia and how postwar peace may be keepable." Discussions continue in a less philosophical vein. I note: "Guys seem to be thinking up things to take on camping trip next summer—'after war's over.' "

Throughout the day I do everything I can to forget where I am. But there is no forgetting: "1445. Test-fire machine guns." And we are reminded all day and all night by the pinging of the sonar searching for German U-boats, which have wrought such havoc in this very sea. Today I am hesitant to reveal what I wrote: "Pinging sounds like lost child's prolonged wail as it disappears, vibrating down the steel companionways into some hellish eternity."

Sunday, June 4. "D Minus One."

On *Herndon*'s bridge the growing tension is compounded by the need to thread our way through the giant armada now beginning to assemble along the south coast of England. There are battleships, troopships, tank ships, weapons ships, personnel carriers, all manner of landing craft: LCTs, LSTs, LCVPs, LCPs, LCMs, LCIs, LCCs, LCEs. Ships of every imaginable size and shape—and some of a size and shape no one has ever imagined before, like the Gooseberries, Rhinos and Mulberries—the latter, giant concrete floating piers that will be yoked together as artificial harbors to make it possible for big ships to unload on the beaches instead of only in harbors.

The Mulberries are being towed, most of their mass hidden underwater. It is an eerie sight to look into the middle distance and see a group of tents sitting on top of the waves. It's not until you are right on top of them that you can see the platforms they are pitched on.

"0730. Day gray. Channel rough. Backtrack!"

It was not until I got off the ship that I learned bad weather had forced General Eisenhower to put D Day on hold. All we knew then was that we had been ordered to turn around and retrace our course. On *Herndon* rumors are wild, all the way up to and including: "Have Germans surrendered?" My notes go on: "It's funny to feel relief when whatever is sparing us may mean snafu of civilization for 1,000 years."

On this day, which turned out to be D Minus Two, rather than D Minus One, the notes contain only one

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further item of interest: "1930 hours—Jack Benny." It would take more than the greatest invasion in history to silence Jack Benny on a Sunday night.

Monday, June 5. D Minus One (for real). I spend part of this morning "sitting in sun by forward turret" chatting with a gunner. He isn't thinking about tomorrow. "I just hope we don't make the same mistakes after the war," he says. But he says it matter-of-factly. One reason for the calm is that *Herndon*'s crew had their baptism of fire the year before. During the invasion of Sicily, "all seemed snafu, yet it worked OK." They are counting on nothing worse tomorrow. At noon I get my first indication of war at sea. A destroyer escort nearby drops a depth charge and our ship shudders. The radio in the wardroom is playing "After you've gone, and left me crying. . . ."

By now the Channel is so full it looks as if you could walk from Portsmouth to Cherbourg, stepping from ship to ship. "*Nevada* looks like a pincushion, guns everywhere." To port "dozens of LSTs." To starboard there is a miniature armada. "So many ships, looks like skyline of city on horizon." As we pass still another covey of heavily laden LSTs, someone yells out: "Good luck, you poor bastards!" After a second he adds: "They're probably saying the same thing about us."

At 1750, Assault Force U's Bombardment Group (that's us) enters "Swept Channel 1," heading straight for Fortress Europe. Tonight there is "steak for dinner." Afterward in the wardroom, "couple of guys snoozing on couches beneath picture landing beach. Radio reports yesterday's Dodger-Cubs game. Dixie Walker got five hits in double-header, boosting his early batting average to .426."

Suddenly, General Quarters! But in half an hour we are secured from General Quarters and go on Condition Two—half-crews man all guns. "Low clouds hover over calm sea. Hope they won't get in way of bombers or paratroops."

June 6, 1944. D Day. Ham sandwiches and hot coffee in the wardroom, shortly after midnight. "Beats the hell out of the Army heading into battle." Back on the bridge in the darkness I become aware that we are sailing down the middle of a marked highway. Minesweepers have somehow miraculously anchored dan buoys (temporary markers) all the way across the English Channel. They are so dim that you have to be right on top of these cat's eyes to make them out, but they're there, marking the center and the edges of this

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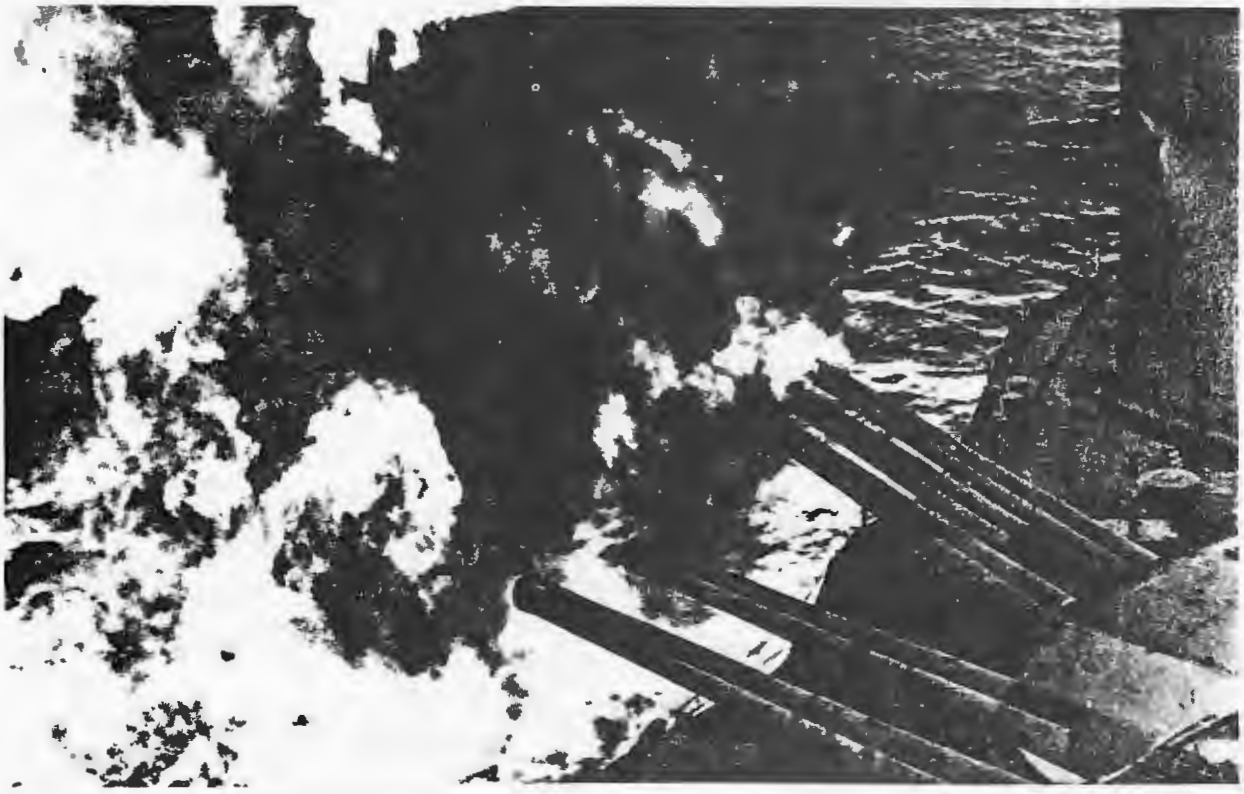

Shells from *Nevada* (above), five more battleships, 60 destroyers and 23 cruisers pounded the shore.

Off the invasion beaches, waterlogged men are rescued by the Coast Guard after their own vessel was sunk.

ocean road. I will see nothing during my days aboard the *Herndon* that better illustrates the planning that contributed so mightily to the invasion's success.

0100—Floating mines close.

0140—C-47s (paratroops) low overhead. One flashes green light under wing: dit-dit-dit-dah—V for Victory. On the bridge, radar has picked up the coast of France.

0300—Anchor. It's still dark. We're ready, but we're too early.

0331—Under way in direction of beaches. It feels almost good.

Official H Hour—the moment of the first landing—is 0630. The plan is for the main batteries of the *Nevada* and *Quincy* to begin pasting the Nazi gun positions behind the beaches for 40 minutes before the first troops land; in the last ten minutes the batteries are targeted on the beach. Because the swept channels are so narrow, this firing will be done while at anchor.

What actually happens my notes do not make completely clear, for when it begins—slightly ahead of schedule—there is so much noise and smoke and confusion that, standing on deck, I cannot jot everything down. As the shells and bombs strike the beaches 5,000 yards away, the concussion that is hurled back to us is so great that my hands are literally shaken and my writing becomes all but undecipherable. Here is what I can make out: "Rocket ships open up on beaches. Looks as if someone has turned up jets on huge gas stove . . . gardens of lethal flowers bloom . . . bombs shaking us."

At 0547 *Herndon* opens fire. The sun will not rise for another ten minutes, but rather stagily I scribble: "A magnificent morning has dawned on the Continent of Europe."

Now everything is happening so fast and in so many directions that for me the first few hours of D Day are a jumble of disconnected images. "On shore I can see a church. Looks just like intelligence photo . . . dive-bombing beaches . . . more rockets . . . tympani crescendo . . . 'Not going to be any beach to land on,' a sailor says. During first hour we fire more than 200 rounds of five-inch . . . Our bombers roaming sky unchallenged." But then comes a cryptic "plane = pink cloud." The bomber and the young men flying it have been transmuted into a puff of beautiful white smoke, tinted pink by the sunrise. I write "Feel no emotion."

A moment later: "Six LCVPs, low in water, go in. Poor bastards." Those whom you actually see you can feel for. Shortly afterward we fish a dead G.I. out of the water. My notes indicate that a smoke screen is being blown over the landing craft, but by whom or how I have no notion. And soon the haze—compounded of rocket trails, bombs, guns and smoke—blots out the shore entirely. "Can see nothing . . . this is ringside seat?"

Just before the curtain falls, the *Corry*, our sister ship, is rocked by a huge explosion and sinks half an hour later. The awful truth aboard the *Herndon* is that there is one thought greater than sorrow for lost comrades: "All hope to God Navy won't announce 'Destroyer sunk' until name her; many families know their sons aboard *Herndon* must be in this battle.

"By 1000 clouds of smoke blown away, revealing avenue of ships going in, avenue lined with festive-looking, zebra-striped landing craft." Offshore, the guns of Navy support ships "belch like circus fire-eaters. All unrealistic until concussion and boom smack already-deafened ears.

"Gliders silhouetted against sunset"

"1102. Secure from General Quarters. Condition Two. The skies are ours. Early phase at beach too good to be true. All tense over lack of opposition. This is Fortress Europe? 'We'll get it tonight' is general consensus. Still have two-thirds ammo unused. Must shoot it all before we leave."

At 1300 the *Herndon* is relieved in the Fire Support Station by the USS *Barton* and ordered to make a course for the Transport Area to help protect other ships from E-boats and U-boats. This evening more "gliders sail overhead, silhouetted against sunset . . . severe ack-ack on beach toward Cherbourg. Theirs? Ours? All so tired could sleep on feet."

At 0355 the next day a bomb or mine drops near our starboard side and we go to General Quarters. An hour later all ships are put on alert for E-boats in the area. It turns out to be a beautiful sunny day with almost no action, and in the afternoon I go back to the fantail,

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Plunging toward land, exhausted infantrymen of the U.S. 16th Division struggle past floating wreckage and knocked-out vehicles to the beaches threatened by accurate and deadly German machine-gun fire.

take off my shirt and lie in the warm June sun. "Just like the French Riviera," I note.

For the *Herndon* the real battle takes place on D plus Two. Shortly after sunrise we are ordered back to the fire-support lanes.

"1305. Contacted Shore Fire Control Party No. 33 (1st Bn, 22 RCT, 4th Inf. Div.) which has landed on Utah beach. I go into CIC [Combat Information Center], crowded with men and every conceivable piece of radio equipment. Room shakes with noise—cross talk from other ships communicating with their shore parties; feedback; static. Almost impossible hear our RCT." What I can hear goes like this:

Army: Raise 100. Right 100. Keep pouring it in.
Herndon: We're not too low for you?
Army: No. No. Keep it up. Keep it up. That's the most beautiful fire I ever saw.
Herndon: We see bursts. We're high enough?
Army: Never mind. We're moving forward. We've got them on the run. Up 100. One minute rapid fire, please.
Herndon: We've completed one minute rapid. How does it look now?
Army: Wonderful. We're moving up right under it. (The voice is panting; speaking with difficulty.) Up 100. Rapid fire one minute.
(The ship fires briefly and stops.)
Herndon: We've got to slow up. Guns are too hot.
Army: Can you give us fire in 15-second intervals? Now that you're zeroed in here, we'd hate to lose you. Can you move another ship in? We've absolutely got to have you.
Herndon: We're resuming fire in 15 seconds.
Army: Good boy. Good boy. Go to it.
(We slow our fire to every 20 seconds. We're using up ammo fast. But ashore they're moving fast, too. We can actually hear the radiomen gasping for breath as they plunge forward.)
Herndon: Is our fire effective?
Army: It certainly is. It certainly is. Keep it up. (We slow fire to every 30 seconds.)
Herndon: We've got to slow it down. Is this OK?
Army: Slow down if you've got to. You haven't wasted a shot. (Overcome with excitement, one of the *Herndon*'s officers yells: "Damn, this is better than sleeping!")
Herndon: How are you making out?
Army: It's plenty damn warm, but we're still making out, thanks to you. Hold on, please. We may need you again.

But we can wait no longer. The Nazi shore batteries are beginning to find our range. Splashes on either side of us are getting closer. I am scared to death: "Wonder why skipper not get hell out here." A moment later he does. "As we head toward main channel, mine sweepers set off mine very near our bow. Forward guns being hosed down. Guns' paint blistering off from heat." We are "getting it." But not very long. At 1500 we are secured from General Quarters.

Supporting the Army is why we are here. But at dusk we are ordered back to the screen protecting the invasion fleet. The Luftwaffe, scoured from the skies by day, now makes a desperate effort by night. "0146. Blue flash as ?? drops into water close astern. Probably glider-bomb." Moments later it hits USS *Meredith* amidships. We go to her aid and pick up several seamen who had been in her engine room when her boilers burst. In the wardroom the *Herndon*'s medical

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officer cuts strips of flesh hanging off what's left of the arms of a youngster who looks in his early teens. "Seems oblivious to pain," I note. "Talking, laughing, joking." Later Doc tells me the kid is in shock and feels no pain. If the shock is too deep, he won't live. "0409. Transfer injured to Hospital LST 284."

As the Nazi planes step up their action, we are ordered to lay down a blanket smoke screen to help cover the anchored troopships and cargo vessels around us. The order is passed from the speaking tube on the bridge down to the engine room five decks below. Promptly from our twin stacks two giant columns rise in air. For the briefest instant, long tongues of fire precede the smoke which quickly shrouds much of the area we are assigned to protect.

We stay in the Bay of the Seine until the next morning, but there are no further incidents. Then, as we start back to England, the degaussing equipment—our protection against magnetic mines—conks out. I return from D Day as I started out: scared to death.

At the time, I had no notion of the effect of the *Herndon*'s presence off the coast of Normandy on those warm June days in 1944. Only recently have I found out. First, from Admiral Morison's history of the invasion: "Three times between 0655 and 0815 (on D Day morning) the *Herndon* blasted and silenced batteries near Grandcamp-les-Bains."

And second, in the Operational Archives of the Naval Historical Center in Washington, D.C. There, in a history of the USS *Herndon* (DD638), are the details, such as they are, of the mission in support of 1st Bn, 22 RCT, 4th Inf. Div.:

> 1305. Contacted Shore Fire Control Party No. 33. Fire on Target No. T-3—a concrete gun emplacement 1 mi. SE town of Fontenay-sur-Mer. Shore Fire Control Party reported excellent results from fire and that our troops are advancing. Kept pillbox under fire and dislodged enemy personnel from it. Following directions of Shore Fire Control Party, this unit fired air bursts at enemy personnel, dislodged and dispersed them.

Anyone looking back on World War II, even as an observer, is likely to recall the brief, euphoric afterglow of any battle survived. For a moment life seems totally without guilt—or responsibility. All debts are paid. The simple fact that you are alive is all that matters. I've often wondered if these glimpses of perfect blessedness may not help explain the inexplicable: the fact that men go on accepting the agony of war.

Only a few days after the landing, beach is choked with ships and supplies for army already well inland.

LONG ISLAND NEWSDAY 8 May 1984 Pg. 4 II

A Jump Into Past Glory

Forty years after they parachuted into Normandy, members of the 82nd and 101st airborne divisions relived the experience — by jumping again.

By Richard C. Firstman
Newsday Staff Correspondent

Orange, Mass. — Roland Duff found himself in the middle of a compulsion, something he could not explain or completely understand, and when the man whacked his backside and said 'Go,' he went; he went hurtling through space in his white shirt and gray knit tie and the boots he had worn in combat.

He had lost sleep over this, but in the plane he had appeared serene; it was a pacific look that remained as he fell toward the green-carpeted earth and disappeared beneath a great plume of billowing nylon.

It had been in June, 1944, that Duff had last jumped from an airplane. It had been 450 feet over Normandy, midnight, June 6, 1944: D-Day. It had been his last mission; he had been wounded 15 days later and sent home. After the war, he had become a dairy executive in Minnesota and a father of three sons. He had never been one of those who relived the war as a romantic exercise. He had preferred to forget it. Now, 40 years later, retired, widowed and 68 years old, he had decided he should go back for an instant: "It's something I just have to do."

Gatherings of war buddies are part of the country's psychological landscape. It has to do with the ties that bind 19-year-old GIs; it has to do with lost glory. But in northern Massachusetts last weekend, a group of men gathered for a different sort of reunion. It had to do with history and heroism, and it had to do with getting old.

They had been the elite: the 82nd and 101st airborne divisions of World War II. Some of them had dropped from the sky over Sicily and Salerno and Africa, and when it came time for the Allies' big push, thousands of them descended on Normandy on a moonlit night that began the end of the war. In a few hours, the paratroopers captured towns, destroyed bridges and set up communications that allowed the Allies to assault the beaches with hundreds of thousands of infantrymen who pushed the German army out of France. It was the kind of victory that inspired books, movies and the telling of war stories for generations. It happened 40 years ago next month.

And so they came to commemorate D-Day at an airfield in Massachusetts, three dozen men of the Airborne who had led the way at Normandy. Eighteen of them would jump again. Some had jumped at other reunions, but most hadn't jumped in years. Four, including Roland Duff, hadn't jumped since the war.

The men who would jump included a newspaper publisher, a hospital administrator and two lawyers; a watchmaker, a farmer and a Teamster. A man with one arm, a man with one ear; men with white hair and no hair; men fighting battles of the bulge and trim-looking men who wore their original uniforms with no alterations; men who could drink all night and jump at sunrise. "It's probably the last hurrah for many of us," said Duff, the oldest of the group.

* * *

"You think of the most important things in your life

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WASHINGTON POST 8 May 1984 Pg. C-1

Washington Ways

By Donnie Radcliffe

The 1984 invasion of France will not be quite equal that of 40 years ago when 154,000 Allied troops stormed the Normandy beaches on June 6 to turn the tide of World War II. But the way Frenchmen are sprucing up hotels, restaurants, private residences and village squares in the area, there is little doubt that crowd expectations are enormous. In addition to the official U.S. contingent headed by First Tourist Ronald Reagan, French veterans organizations estimated that upwards of 10,000 Americans may turn up at Utah Beach for the D-day anniversary observance.

Ready and waiting will be the French at their entrepreneurial best. One shrewd Norman already has bought two tons of sand, reportedly for the grand sum of $5, to bag and sell to souvenir-hungry visitors at profits certain to put the lagging French economy back on its feet.

While French President **François Mitterrand** plays D-day host there, French Ambassador **Bernard Vernier-Palliez**, who fought with the French Resistance during the war, will give a black tie dinner at the French Embassy here for about 60 guests, including the ambassadors of Great Britain, Canada, The Netherlands, Norway and Belgium.

Also invited are several American D-day commanders. Retired U.S. Army generals **Matthew Ridgway**, 89, and **Joseph Lawton "Lightning Joe"** Collins, 88, have sent their regrets, however, according to the embassy. Both expect to join their current commander-in-chief, President Reagan, in Normandy that day.

A JUMP INTO PAST GLORY...Continued

. . . We were on the runway for Normandy. Gen. [Matthew] Ridgeway had told us, "Fellas, at some point you will realize you were involved in the greatest expedition in history." We walked across that airstrip in England, single file. It was a beautiful night. In the plane all you could hear was the roar of the engines. The plane turned onto the runway and I looked out the window and I saw a couple hundred RAF girls standing on each side. Nobody waved, they just stood there. Planeload after planeload, they were saluting without moving. And we knew we were riding on the crest of history. That moment was worth five lifetimes."

—Bill Tucker

* * *

The aging veterans of the 82nd would perform their mission early on Saturday morning. The night before was blustery: "The airborne soldier is still here, he's ready to fight," Robert Murphy, a 58-year-old Boston attorney, announced with a beer at Motel 6, division headquarters. "The old fellas, we're not done yet."

They talked about the war, of course. But they also talked about the glory of jumping, about how it made them different from the rest, how it made them better. "I joined because I wanted to be with the best, and I don't want that ever to leave my life," said Tucker, a Justice Department official who had lately shed 50 pounds, partly in preparation for his first sky jump in 20 years. "Parachuting as a sport, you can have it. The last thing I want to do for fun is jump out of an airplane. I'd rather play golf. There are a lot of reasons *not* to do it. I'm 60 years old. But there's a compulsion about it. I know I have to do it. It's a manifestation of belonging to an exclusive group."

There were men who could not manufacture bravado, although just being there was a form of it. "I'm scared to death," confided Robert Malcolm, a farmer from Middlefield, Conn., who lost an arm in combat. Two of his sons were in the 82nd. One died in Vietnam. "Why jump? You tell me. I don't know, there's something about it. I'm here, I might as well. I'll give it a shot."

Roy Stark, 70, wished he could. Two years ago he suffered a stroke, and now he was looking up from his wheelchair, pointing to it as an explanation of why he could not jump. Tears came. "Just the idea of being with the guys," he said. "Sentimental journey."

"He wants to go," said Frank Bilich, a 59-year-old public works superintendent from Bridgeview, Ill. "You put a chute on that goddamn plane and he'll go."

* * *

"My first jump was Sicily, through high winds. I landed in an olive grove. We had the 505th Parachute Regiment, the 325th Glider Infantry, the 3rd Batallion, 504th Parachute Regiment. After 40 years, it still lingers in your mind. If you were there, you just know."

—Ed Dugan

* * *

The weather was not good Saturday morning. Low clouds hung above the Orange Parachuting Center; wind whipped the airfield and made it feel like a football Saturday. The men of the 82nd, in their red jump suits and white helmets, waited at the edge of the airstrip, near the silver Cessna from which they would leap. Some of them went behind a supply shed and practiced. They hopped from a four-foot platform, landing on their feet and rolling over their right shoulders. "Oooh," groaned Walter Weiss of Jersey City. "I must have hit a nerve or something."

"Who needs practice? I'm a born jumper," said Frank Dwyer of Holtsville, who hadn't jumped since the war. He wouldn't reveal his age but, after some negotiation, agreed to a round figure of 65. He was lean, with a thinning crew cut; he looked like John Glenn, 10 years older.

Roland Duff stood calmly in his jump suit. Over his jump suit was a cream-colored businessman's raincoat. He wore a white golf hat. Tufts of white hair covered his jowls, islands of whiskers on a broad face. He would jump in a shirt and tie and his original-issue combat boots, which he had reconditioned. "I took them off the mantel," he said. "I haven't worn them since '44. Putting them on made me feel kind of cocky." But he admitted, "I didn't sleep that great last night. I was doing some sweating. I'm not sure it's the most intelligent thing I've done. But the war was probably the greatest thing in many of our lives and I guess you jump just to bring it all back. It's something I think I want to do, and have to do."

Richard Tedeschi, the jockey-sized flying imp of the 82nd, played with a toy parachute and told a remarkably comprehensive series of parachute jokes. He was the 82nd's lightweight boxing champion, a mischief-maker who once stole a colonel's jeep. Now, he is a construction superintendent in the Bronx who talks a little like Jimmy Durante. He is one of those who jumps twice a year at reunions and will jump next month during a celebration in Normandy. He listened to some of the others try to explain why they were jumping, why it was almost necessary. He smiled elfishly. "It's esoteric," he said.

In the parking lot, three women sat in a car. "It's something he wants to do and I can't stop him," said Florence Dugan of Ronkonkoma, wife of Ed. "He promised me he wouldn't do it a few years ago and now he's breaking his promise. He says, 'Just this once.' He's like the rest of them. I don't understand it, but I wasn't through a war."

"We've been here before," said Rita Casanova of South Amboy, N. J., wife of Pat, 59. "I remember one man — remember this, girls? — he's deceased now, but he gave his teeth to his wife before he went up so he wouldn't lose them. We've seen men land in trees. One landed in a lake. I don't know." She sighed. "What're you going to do with them?"

The waiting reminded some of England, of how the weather at Normandy had delayed the invasion by a day. And when, 40 years later, the commemorative jump was postponed until Sunday because of the belligerent wind, there was disappointment. "I would have liked to get it over with today," said Roland Duff.

* * *

"The first plane I was ever in, I jumped out of. I never got to land. Every time I went up, I went out . . . I could not disconnect my life from the people I was in the war with. We're part of a family. I wouldn't care if he's in Vietnam, Korea, if he's a paratrooper, he's a special breed. We're all volunteers, you know."

—Frank Bilich

* * *

Sunday was beautiful.

The mission got under way at midmorning. There would be seven runs. Evan Confrey, 60, asked to be the middle of the three jumpers on his plane. "He hasn't jumped in 40 years. He needs some moral support," said Larry James, a banker from East Northport who would be in Confrey's group. "Ed'll show him the way and I'll

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

A JUMP INTO PAST GLORY...
Continued

push him."

There were handshakes and thumbs up as the first group squeezed into the tiny plane. "Hey, Murphy, will ya get in here before I collapse?" Tucker said to his fellow lawyer.

"Don't get jumpy," Bob Murphy said. "Move your butt up there."

"I'm getting a cramp."

The plane took off and circled the area until it reached 2,500 feet. On the ground, men and women peered into the bright blue sky. Soon a dark speck dropped from the plane and a parachute opened. It was Tucker. He dropped slowly and in a minute or two he was plunging into the targeted sand pit.

"Vive la France," he said as he rose. Sand dropped from his nostrils. "I haven't felt better in 25 years."

Florence Dugan didn't see any of it. Her eye was trained on the plane, waiting for her husband to drop. He did.

"Open, 'chute," she said. "Open!"

The parachute opened, on schedule. "That part's over," Mrs. Dugan said. "Now the worst part's landing. C'mon, Edward, oh beautiful. Oh, I got to get a picture of this."

Dugan landed with a textbook-perfect roll. His wife greeted with him a kiss. "That was beautiful," she told him.

"Thank you, hon," Dugan said with a swagger.

Elmo Jones, 60, dropped next. "How 'bout that?" were his first words. Then: "Don't tell me history don't repeat itself. I feel fine. Somebody help me up."

* * *

Roland Duff was on Plane 6. He would jump first, ahead of Joe DiBartolo, an experienced jumper from Highland Park, N.J. "He's been asking me questions all morning," DiBartolo had said before takeoff. "Some of these guys haven't slept for three days. Waiting yesterday was torture for them."

Duff showed none of the jitters he had admitted to having. He sat calmly in the plane, beside the door. "I feel great," he said above the roaring engine. He seemed ready for whatever happened.

At 2,500 feet, Tom McLaughlin, the jumpmaster, opened the door and a rush of wind filled the plane. Duff maneuvered onto a metal bar outside the plane, held the struts above him and extended his right leg as if he were performing on a balance beam. He was attached to the plane by a nylon line that would open his parachute and then snap.

The pilot cut the engine. "Stand by," McLaughlin yelled. Then he hit Duff's backside and told him: "Go."

He went. He plummeted, his body a bullet. McLaughlin leaned from the plane, peering for three seconds, until the parachute opened and Duff was jerked to a glide. "Beautiful," McLaughlin said.

As he floated toward earth, he would say later, Duff flashed back to the war, to the French and English countryside that was like the green and brown patchwork of the Connecticut River Valley, and to the faces of people he hadn't thought of in years: "Jerry Shapiro, a Jewish boy. A good friend. A good jumper. He got shot in the neck over there. My lieutenant, Ralph McGill. He went out ahead of me at Normandy. He broke both his ankles on the jump and was captured by the Germans."

Minnesotan Roland Duff, 68, the oldest jumper at the reunion, takes a practice fall.

At 68, Roland Duff had completed a rite of passage. When he reached the ground, he collected his parachute and joined the other men of the 82nd, men with white moustaches and imperfect bodies encased in red jump suits and white helmets. They gathered for a picture, heroes again. /m

Sunday, May 13, 1984 Philadelphia Inquirer 7-A

D-Day's secret tragedy, five weeks before the invasion

By Mark S. Smith
Associated Press

LONDON — As the 40th anniversary of D-Day draws near, the English have been recalling the invasion's "darkest secret" — the night German torpedo boats slipped into a fog-shrouded bay on the English Channel coast and torpedoed three landing craft practicing for the Normandy assault.

At least 749 American GIs were killed, more than the number who died five weeks later in the invasion June 6, 1944, when their units stormed ashore on Utah Beach.

So disastrous was the attack that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Allied commander, ordered it kept secret. The victims were buried in mass graves, and their families didn't learn the truth until years after the war.

It was just past midnight on April 28, 1944, when the convoy of landing craft chugged slowly into Lyme Bay on the Devon coast.

On board were soldiers of the U.S. Fourth Division, mostly engineers, shifting heavy backpacks and peering into the pre-dawn mist. The target, Slapton Sands, had been chosen for its resemblance to Utah Beach.

At about 1:30 a.m., two flotillas of German E-boats, as the torpedo boats were known, charged into the bay and loosed a string of torpedoes at the convoy. As the E-boats turned and fled, there were flashes, booms and shouts.

Three landing craft were hit. Two sank.

"At least 1,000 yards astern of us, you could see a jeep flying through the air," recalls Manny Reuben, a Navy signalman on one of the ships.

"You could see black dots that we knew were men just on the fringe of it. It was just like hell, like every sailor's nightmare."

Those who weren't killed in the explosions drowned under the weight of their equipment or burned to death as flaming gasoline poured over the water.

"As it got lighter, we saw the most horrible sight," Reuben said. "As far as you could see out in the sea, there were men floating — dead bodies."

U.S. Army records show at least 749 men were lost, but the researcher who filed those reports said they "may be incomplete."

Because of the secrecy — so strict that survivors were held in an isolation camp — the Germans didn't know how deadly their attack had been.

Hans Schirren, one of the E-boat commanders, learned only this year, when a British television company researching a documentary contacted him. He declined to be interviewed, but wrote: "To my utter surprise, I have learned now from you about 750 lives lost that night in Lyme Bay. Please allow me to say I feel very sad about the heavy losses."

The documentary, *Sands of Silence*, aired on Britain's Independent Television network, called Exercise Tiger "an astounding catalogue of incompetence and misunderstandings."

For one thing, the exercise was conducted with live ammunition. And aside from the attack, an escorting destroyer collided with an assault ship and had to return to port. The operation was left with just one escort, the British corvette HMS Azalea. Meanwhile, supplies went astray, and there were terrible traffic pileups around the beach.

When the documentary was screened for local residents in Devon, one of them, Dorothy Seekings, of Stoke Fleming near Dartmouth, disclosed one of grisliest aspects of what the London Daily Mail called "D-Day's Darkest Secret."

She wrote to a local newspaper saying she recalled seeing "dozens" of GIs' bodies piled into mass graves in a field about two miles from her home.

Mrs. Seekings, now 64, was 23 that spring and was delivering bread and doughnuts to the soldiers stationed near her home. She was traveling on a special pass and was given a lift by a soldier in an Army truck. Soon after he picked her up, he pulled to the roadside and said he had to make a delivery.

"Not until I got out of the truck and went around the back did I see all these dead men laying one on top of another in the back of the truck," she told the Associated Press.

Across the road, a group of soldiers was digging in a field, "and I could see the earth mounted up in the field, and they came out and they carried these men into the field."

Asked about Mrs. Seekings' account, a spokeswoman at the U.S. Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania confirmed its accuracy.

"About half of the victims were never recovered, and the remainder were buried the next day in a field in Devon," said the spokeswoman, who asked not to be identified. "After the war, they were exhumed and moved to other cemeteries in accordance with the wishes of their next of kin."

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT 12 May 1984 Pg. B-3

D-Day volunteers plan 40th reunion

By JACK DORSEY
Staff writer

There may be no more than 150 of them left in Virginia, but the survivors of the "Blue and Gray" volunteers of the 29th Infantry Division, who made the D-Day landing on the beaches at Normandy in June 1944, are gathering together as many as they can to remember the 40th anniversary of their invasion of France.

"We were planning to go over there for the ceremonies, but the cost got to $800, then to $1,800 each," said Joseph Long, a retired warrant officer who spent 35 years with the Virginia Army National Guard's 111th Field Artillery. "Besides, everyone said it would be difficult to find a place to stay."

Instead, Long and about 25 other area residents who made the landing June 6, 1944, will settle for the Officers Club at Fort Story in Virginia Beach as the site of their reunion June 10.

They may also take advantage of the Virginia National Guard's offer to charter buses to Washington for a ceremony near the White House on June 6. Leaders from the United States, France and England are to participate in several ceremonies on the Normandy beaches June 6.

Throughout the state, National Guard officials in Richmond said, no more than 145 Virginia veterans could be found who made the landing. They are concentrated in Tidewater, Roanoke, South Boston and Staunton.

Members of the 111th and the 116th infantries formed the heart of the first element of the division to enter combat.

These units, untested in combat, comprised about 1,200 men who went ashore on Omaha Beach.

The 116th lost more than 300 men, nearly half of its strength. The 111th, with 650 troops, suffered 137 casualties and lost 11 of its 12 howitzers before reaching the beach.

Long, of Virginia Beach, who was then a corporal, and Rocco Nocella of Norfolk, a staff sergeant, said they remained together throughout the day, lying on the beach and waiting to break through.

"We laid there in a hole," Long said. "Every time we moved, a sniper fired at us from a church on the hill. I've never seen anything like it in my life."

Finally, he said, a truck with a .50-caliber machine gun came along and managed to silence the sniper. "We almost blew the top off that church."

They raced up the hill after the sniper but found the church empty, except for large containers of cider.

"We filled our canteens with it and went on fighting," Long said.

In all, the 29th Division lost 3,000 men that day. Among them was the 111th's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Thornton Mullins. After losing his artillery, Mullins yelled to his men: "To hell with our artillery mission, we're infantry now."

Mullins had been wounded but stayed to lead his men. He was wounded twice more before he died later in the day.

As additional units landed, the 29th was able to fight its way to the top of the bluffs and secure the beachhead. Its gallantry earned the division the Presidential Unit Citation and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

"Time flies," Long said. "I'm 65 now, but I feel like I could go back over there tomorrow."

The 111th reunion will be held from noon to 5 p.m. June 10 at Fort Story. Reservations may be made by contacting Hubert H. Hinman, 2212 Ebb Tide Road, Virginia Beach, Va. 23451.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

15 May 1984 Pg. 1

40 years later, does D in D-day mean delete?

By Shelley Rolfe
Times-Dispatch staff writer

The Army's public affairs office in the Pentagon has decided to delete a portion of a radio speech to Western Europe by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was supreme Allied commander, on the morning of D-day, June 6, 1944.

In a publicity package commemorating the approaching 40th anniversary of the U.S., British and Canadian landings in Normandy, the public affairs office eliminated Eisenhower's reference to the Soviet Union, a World War II ally, The Times-Dispatch has learned.

Announcing the landing, Eisenhower went on to say, "This landing is part of the concerted United Nations plan for the liberation of Europe made in conjunction with our great Russian allies."

Maj. Bruce Bell, who put together the package, said yesterday he deleted Eisenhower's reference to "our great Russian allies."

He said he had not been pressured to do so by the White House or by ranking Pentagon officers because of the frigid state of U.S.-Soviet relations.

The package, Bell said, "was put together before the Russians decided to boycott the Olympics."

"The whole thrust of what we were trying to do was to mark the anniversary of D-day. I took it on myself to cut out the Russians because they were not involved in D-day. It had nothing to do with our present feelings towards the Russians."

Bell also recalled that "Stalin hailed D-day." Before the Normandy landings, the Russians had consistently urged their allies to make a landing in France to relieve the pressures the Germans were putting on them on the Eastern Front.

LOS ANGELES TIMES 15 May 1984 Pg. 1

Survivors Remember

D-Day — a Legacy of Gratitude

By STANLEY MEISLER,
Times Staff Writer

Los Angeles Times

OMAHA BEACH, France—On June 6, 1944, Clark Houghton, a 21-year-old ensign from Iowa, spent barely 15 minutes on Omaha Beach while 200 soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division scurried from his landing craft in a grim rush for the German-held bluffs ahead. Judging by the casualty rate on the beach at that moment, 170 of those men were probably either killed or wounded.

Those 15 minutes on D-Day 40 years ago seared Houghton's memory for life. Houghton, now the 61-year-old president of the First National Bank of Iowa City, has returned six times to Omaha Beach and the other invasion beaches of Normandy.

Speaking softly, almost shyly, on a recent visit to the Normandy American Cemetery, where 9,386 American servicemen and servicewomen are buried on the high land overlooking Omaha Beach, Houghton said that he and his wife came back for the first time in 1973. When they stood where his boat had landed, in the Dog Red sector of Omaha Beach, Houghton said, "tears came to my eyes and my wife's eyes. It was a great emotion; it was overpowering."

A Kind of Ritual

The visits have become a kind of ritual.

"This sounds like a kid," he said. "I go to the beach and look up to the hills to see what it looked like to the Americans. Then, I go up to the hills and look down to see what it looked like to the Germans."

He usually brings members of his family. This year, his daughter and son-in-law joined Houghton and his wife.

"I don't want them to think that I was a hero," he said. "But I want them to know that Americans gave their lives here for a cause, and we never questioned that cause."

This year will be the 40th anniversary of D-Day, the largest landing of troops from the sea in the history of warfare. The massive Allied assault broke through the German defenses on the coast of occupied France and brought on, almost a year later, the defeat of Adolf Hitler and the end of World War II in Europe.

Memorial Services

To commemorate the anniversary, France, the United States, Britain and Canada are planning a series of memorial services and re-enactments on June 6, including a joint ceremony on Utah Beach. The ceremony is expected to be attended by President Reagan, Queen Elizabeth II of Britain, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau of Canada and President Francois Mitterrand of France. More than 40,000 veterans of the battle, including some of the defeated Germans, are expected to take part in some commemoration somewhere in Normandy that day.

In some ways, all the fanfare may be superfluous. The American and other Allied soldiers who landed in France on D-Day are so enmeshed in the history of Normandy that their place in French folklore hardly needs to be reinforced by any ceremonies. Even more important, without the spur of any commemorative anniversary, American, British and Canadian veterans have been returning in recent years in increasing numbers to the site of terrifying moments of their youth, marveling over the horror, mulling over its meaning.

"We hadn't even thought it was the 40th anniversary," said S. Robert Winer, a 64-year-old lawyer from Nashua, N.H. "We always wanted to come to Normandy. We just decided that this was the time to go."

Talking over breakfast at a hotel in Bayeux, Winer said he was the co-pilot of one of the gliders taking troops and equipment inland in the airborne landings that came in the darkness a few hours before the main assault on the beaches at dawn. In Normandy for the first time since then, he had found the farmer's field where his glider landed, but he said he felt more emotional about finding the grave of a college classmate in the carefully tended, deep-green Normandy American Cemetery, with its elegant memorials and awesome vistas.

"Graves are like dollars," he said. "When the numbers get too high, they sometimes lose meaning. You see 10,000 graves and you can lose sight of the fact that there are young people buried there. I hope when President Reagan comes here, he just doesn't think of the cemetery as a beautiful sight. Of course, it is a beautiful sight, but the important thing is that it is a reminder that this must never happen again."

There are many Americans like Winer coming back for the first time since the war. Joseph P. Rivers, the superintendent of the U.S.-operated cemetery, said the number of visitors increases by 5% to 10% every year. He estimates that 1.5 million came in 1983 and that 2 million will show up before the end of this year.

Most visitors are French, but a sizable minority, perhaps 15%, are American veterans, and Rivers speaks to many of them.

"Most of the veterans are retired now or close to it," Rivers said in his office by the cemetery. "I wouldn't call these the twilight years but years of reflection. A lot of them contemplate about those who died and ask why they themselves were selected to survive."

The French view the landings as the major step in the liberation of France from German occupation. As a result, there is a special affection for the American soldiers who fought there. This hold the American troops have on the people of Normandy can be felt quickly in the medieval church of Sainte-Mere-Eglise, a town on the main highway six miles inland from the sea. Paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, landed here in the pre-dawn hours of D-Day.

'They Have Come Back'

The church has a 13th-Century tower and a choir section built in the 14th and 15th centuries, but its stained glass windows are modern. One, installed over the medieval main door just after the war, shows the Virgin Mary surrounded by paratroopers descending on

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

LEGACY OF GRATITUDE...Continued

the town. Another, donated 15 years ago by veterans of the 82nd Airborne Division, displays various insignia of the paratroopers and proclaims, in both French and English, "They have come back." The church sells visitors a leaflet with "A Paratrooper's Prayer," composed by Maj. Geord B. Wood, the chaplain of the 82nd Airborne Division on D-Day.

Periers, another town 20 miles by road to the south, is linked with another American unit, the 90th Infantry Division, which landed on Utah Beach a few days after D-Day and took the town from the Germans eight weeks later. The close relationship is largely a result of the tenacity of Henri Levauvre, an engineer who was 13 years old in 1944.

After the war, the Americans and the townspeople lost contact. Levauvre, however, wrote letters for four years during the 1960s to agencies in Washington in his quest to identify the American unit that had liberated his town. Finally discovering that it was the 90th Infantry Division, he wrote a letter to its Assn. of Veterans, saying, as he put it in a recent interview, "I would be happy to find the GIs who liberated Periers."

"A few weeks later," Levauvre said, "the first mail came, and it has never stopped."

At his suggestion, two American veterans returned to Periers in 1969, and there has been a procession of visitors from the 90th Infantry Division ever since. The linked "T" and "O" that make up the 90th's insiginia—originally, the division's ranks were filled by men from Texas and Oklahoma—adorns the home of Levauvre in many forms.

"Even the smallest of my grandchildren can draw that," Levauvre said.

The closeness will be demonstrated on June 6 this year when 200 veterans of the 90th Infantry Division and their wives come to Normandy for the anniversary ceremonies and stay at the homes of 90 families in Periers. The town of 3,000 will dedicate a "Rue de la 90th Division, U.S." and a "Place Jim Clark."

Clark, who will come from Lawrence, Kan., for the ceremonies, is regarded as the first American soldier to set foot in Periers, even though it was by error. A lieutenant acting as liaison officer with the press, he led four American war correspondents into the town on July 27, 1944, on the mistaken notion that it had been captured. Learning that they were a few hours premature, the five headed back to the American lines in a hurry.

It is not a simple thing for a Norman town like Periers to feel close to the Americans who liberated it. Two days after D-Day, American bombers struck the German-occupied town, destroying most of it and killing 130 civilians. Asked if the town had felt anger at their liberators for bombing them so heavily, Levauvre replied, "We had no reason to. I knew they were paying as well."

He acknowledged, though, that he felt some trepidation in 1971 when 70 veterans of the 90th Infantry Division visited the town, the largest group to return since the war. He worried whether some townspeople might show bitterness about the bombing.

"Instead," he said, "I saw a father and mother whose children were killed go up to shake the hands of the Americans."

D-Day was hardly an exclusively American event. While the Americans landed 57,500 troops on Omaha and Utah beaches and dropped 13,600 men inland on D-Day, the British and Canadians landed 75,500 troops on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches in Normandy and dropped 6,000 men inland. Largely because of the terrible losses on Omaha beach, however, Americans accounted for two-thirds of the 10,274 killed or wounded in the first 24 hours.

A tour of the other sectors turns up memories that are similar to those of the American beaches. At the museum next to one of the bridges that was seized during the night by glider-borne troops of the 6th British Airborne Division, a British veteran could not keep from identifying himself to the curator. The veteran had been a member of the 51st Scottish Highland Division, which landed on D-Day and fought its way to the bridges.

"Our job was to guard these bridges from counterattack," the veteran said.

He reminisced about the legendary Bill Millin, who played his bagpipes while marching with Lord Lovat and his British commandos from Sword Beach to the bridges north of Caen.

"Some thought he was bloody crazy," the veteran said, "but others told him, 'Go to it, Bill.' "

Not only Allied veterans come back to the beaches. Standing in front of the huge maps of the landings at the memorial on the Normandy American Cemetery, a 65-year-old German businessman felt compelled recently to tell some younger visitors from San Jose, Calif., that he had been there. He said his name was Karl Graf and that on June 6, 1944, he was a sergeant with the 352nd Infantry Division stationed at Asnelles, just behind Gold Beach where the British landed. He had returned to the Normandy beaches three times before. Now, he was leading a group of 30 veterans from his old division coming back to Normandy for the first time since their defeat.

"We are returning to the scene of the crime," he said with a laugh. "It was a very rough day. I could not believe that so many ships existed. They stretched from one end of the sky to the other. We had never felt such a concentration of firepower before, from the ships, from the planes. There had never been anything like it on the Eastern Front."

The Normandy beaches offer visitors a host of reminders: the sites, the memorials, the cemeteries, the plaques, the street signs, the museums. There are 11 government and private museums and exhibitions, some of them commercial, some of them historic, but most containing poignant souvenirs.

A visitor can find old Barbasol shaving cream boxes, Red Cross matches, a French poster insisting to the invading troops that only a small number of French collaborated with the Germans, and a letter, found on a beach, written by Rep. Samuel A. Weiss of Pennsylvania to the commanding officer of Company K, 333rd Infantry, inquiring after the health of Pvt. Donald R. Heath, whose parents believed he had "a stomach disorder."

An exhibition hall in Vierville, near the Dog Red sector of Omaha Beach, features a letter by Clark Houghton, the landing craft ensign turned Iowa bank president. The letter was written to his parents at 8 p.m. on D-Day. Attached to it is a picture of him as a young ensign, looking thin and innocent.

"It was a horrible ordeal," the young Houghton wrote his parents. " . . . I keep thinking about these poor soldiers. We in the amphibious forces may feel hell for a while but how about those foot soldiers who have to face it for God knows how long. I became very close with all of them the weeks they were on here, and as they left right into the face of the enemy, tears came to my eyes.

"They are the real heroes of this war, the buck privates, the John Jones of Red Oak. What they wouldn't have given to come off the beach with us, but they had no alternative. There was only one war for them."

Talking about the letter 40 years later and walking near the graves of the cemetery over Omaha Beach, Houghton said, "The letter sounds very sentimental now, but it gives you an idea of how I honestly felt."

PENTAGRAM 17 May 1984

Remembering D-Day

Gen. Maxwell Taylor and Gen. J. Lawton Collins, both retired Army officers, were honored in Pentagon ceremonies Monday for their part in the Allied invasion of Normandy 40 years ago. Taylor was commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division that was dropped behind enemy lines on D-Day, and Collins was commander of the U.S. VII Corps which landed at Utah Beach on the Normandy coast that same day.

John O. Marsh, Jr., secretary of the Army, and John A. Wickham, Jr., Army chief of staff, paid tribute to the two, who were also honored by the troops of the 3rd U.S. Infantry (Old Guard) and by many military and civilian employees of the Defense Department who came out to witness the ceremony.

In addition to that ceremony, a special D-Day exhibit was unveiled in the Pentagon the same day. Included in the exhibit is a copy of Gen. Eisenhower's Order of the Day signed by both Eisenhower and Field Marshal Montgomery, an original post card sent by Marshal Erwin Rommel to his wife shortly after the invasion, the flag flown by the United Staes Army Rangers after they had scaled Pointe du Hoc, a signed copy of Franklin D. Roosevelt's D-Day Prayer, and equipment carried and worn by soldiers that "longest day." One of the special guests at the unveiling was "Wally" Stroebel, a U.S. Army paratrooper at Normandy.

Forty years ago, immediately before the 101st Airborne Division was sent into combat, Gen. Eisenhower visited the troops of that division. The photograph of that visit was sent around the world, inspiring soldiers and civilians alike. Wally Stroebel was the platoon leader to whom Ike was speaking in the famous photograph. Today, Stroebel is owner of the Central Warehouse in Saginaw, Mich.

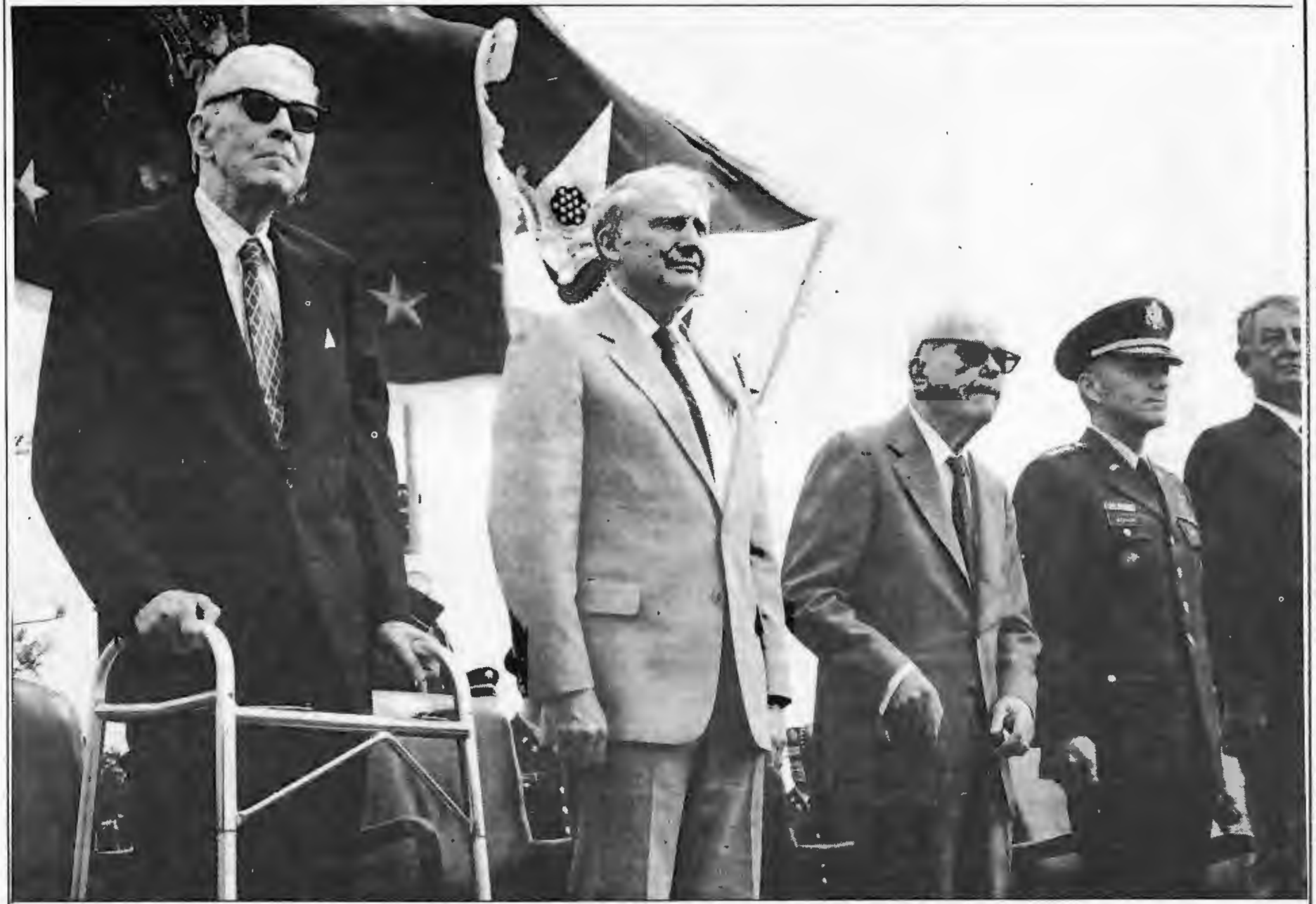
"It was a thrill seeing the exhibit today," said Stroebel. "I felt a great sense of nostalgia seeing the generals and the D-Day display."

In another location of the Pentagon is a jeep that landed at Normandy and carried the commanding general of the 29th Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gerhardt, from Normandy until the end of the war. Gerhardt, described by Eisenhower as "an old West Point friend . . . a great athlete and an inspirational leader," kept an enemy helmet on the hood of the jeep for the remaining months of the war.

Sgt. Robert T. Cuff, Gerhardt's driver, managed to save that jeep, named Vixen Tor after the area in England where the division trained, for the Maryland National Guard after the war. It has been on display in the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore before coming to the Pentagon.

"If this jeep could talk," said Cuff, "it could tell a lot of stories." *(OCPA, DA)*

Gen. J. Lawton Collins arrives at the Pentagon prior to a ceremony held in remembrance of D-Day and in honor of Collins and Gen. Maxwell Taylor, both of whom are D-Day veterans. (U.S. Army photo)



From left to right, Gen. Maxwell Taylor, Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh Jr., Gen. J. Lawton Collins, Army Chief of Staff Gen. John A. Wickham Jr. and Congressman Sam Gibbs (D-FL), watch from the reviewing stand during D-Day ceremonies Monday at the Pentagon. (U.S. Army photo)

12 PENTAGRAM Thursday, May 17, 1984

D-Day: Allied Forces played waiting game

by Marty Bishop
first in a series

Forty years ago June 6, the Allied Forces invaded Europe and won one of the most important battles in history. Adolf Hitler and his field marshals knew that an invasion was inevitable, so they made preparations to defend the Atlantic coast.

Hitler envisioned a concrete wall extending from the Arctic Ocean in the north, down to the Baltic Sea in the south. He knew that the Lion across the channel was slowly recovering, thanks in part to U.S. aid, and that the completion of the wall was of paramount importance.

His generals urged him to invade England. They wanted to ensure a complete victory before England could get back on her feet, but Hitler was set on building that Atlantic Wall to keep the enemy out.

Hitler believed that England was too crippled to mount any major offensive and that they would surely petition for peace. After all, his blitzkrieging troops crushed Western Europe in a matter of weeks. He underestimated the threat that England posed.

In 1942, the war began to turn from Hitler — he was losing division after division in the vast expanse of Russia. British commandos began raiding the incompleted wall, and to see just how strongly the Atlantic ports had been fortified by the Germans, 5,000 courageous Canadians landed at Drieppe, a channel port in France. The brave Canadian commandos suffered 3,369 casualties — 900 of them dead. But, the allied planners knew more about the strengths and weaknesses of Hitler's wall.

Hitler wanted to make Europe an "impregnable fortress" and after the commando raids he knew that the wall would have to be hastily completed.

To complete the wall, thousands of slave laborers were put to work around the clock, and his Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, the military genius who had several successful campaigns in Northern Africa, was called to see the work completed.

What Rommel saw when he inspected the incompleted wall shocked him. He concluded that the wall was not strong enough to hold back an invasion, calling it a "fragment of Hitler's Wolkenkucksheim" — cloud cukoo land. The wall was formidible even in its non-completed state as the allied commanders found out with the Canadian raid, but it did not nearly meet Rommel's standards. Directly across from England at the narrowest part of the channel the wall didn't even exist.

Hitler ordered the work to be completed "fanatically" and chunks of Germany's own frontier fortifications, the Siegfried line, was scrapped to provide materials. By 1943, the wall was far from finished, but it was an intimidating fortress. Hitler's under-estimation gave way to the realization that an all-out invasion was inevitable.

Htiler's next problem was finding the manpower to defend the coast. Russia was "eating his men alive," and by 1944 he resorted to manning the wall with old men and young boys, remnants from divisions that had been defeated in Russia, and "volunteers" from Poland, Hungary, Czeckoslavakia, Romania and Yugoslavia. He even had two Russian divisions who rather fought with the Nazis than waste away in a prison camp. By D-Day, Hitler had amassed 60 divisions.

Field Marshal Von Rundstedt, who was in charge of Western Europe's defenses scoffed at Hitler's wall. He called it, "an enormous bluff . . . more for the German people than for the enemy . . . and the enemy, through his agents, knows more about it than we do."

Rommel agreed whole-heartedly with his senior's assessment. It would act as a temporary deterrent to an invasion, but could not stop it.

Rommel and Rundstedt disagreed, however, on how to meet the invasion. Rundstedt wanted to hold his troops back from the coast and attack the enemy after they landed. Rommel, on the other hand, believed that he could defeat the enemy by meeting the invasion head on. Hitler went along with Rommel.

"The Desert Fox" set out to drastically change the anti-invasion plans. On every beach where a landing could be made, he had his soldiers build crude anti-invasion obstacles. He was fascinated with mines and planned to infest the coast with 60 million of them. By D-Day, he had five million in place.

His soldiers waited behind the coast in pill boxes and bunkers surrounded by barbed wire. He used the latest weapons — mortars, rocket launchers and automatic flame throwers to greet the Allied attack.

He didn't neglect to prepare a welcome for an airborne assault either. He had low areas flooded and every open field had stakes driven in it and trip wire explosive booby-traps awaited the paratroopers.

When Rommel finished, he had the most ominous defense against an invasion the modern world had ever seen.

Rommel, however, was guilty too of

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American assault troops in a landing craft huddle behind the protective front of the craft as it nears a beach head, on the Northern Coast of France. Smoke in the background is Naval gunfire supporting the landing. (DoD photo)

WAITING GAME...Continued

under-estimating the Allied Forces. He had been corresponding with his wife and March 30 that year he wrote: "Now that March is nearing its end and without the Anglo-Americans having started their attack . . . I'm beginning to believe they have lost confidence in their cause."

April 6 Rommel wrote: "Here the tension is growing from day to day . . . It will probably be only weeks that separate us from the decisive events."

April 26 he wrote: "In England morale is bad . . . there is one strike after another and the cries of 'Down with Churchill and the Jews' and for peace are getting louder . . . these are bad omens for such a risky offensive."

April 27 Rommel told his wife: "It appears now that the British and Americans are not going to be so accommodating as to come in the immediate future."

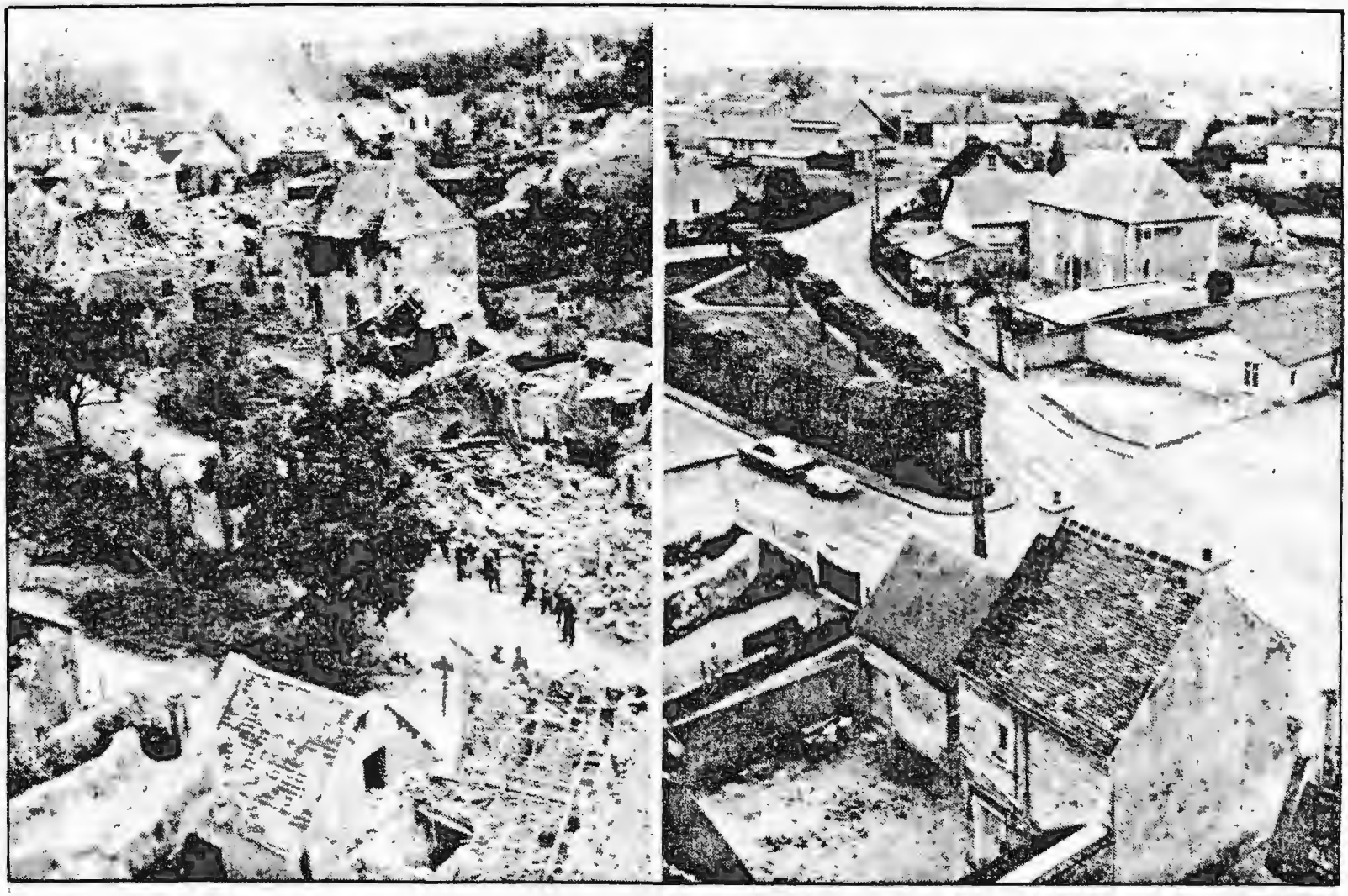
May 6: "Still no signs of the British and Americans . . . Every day every week . . . we get stronger . . . I am looking forward to battle with confidence . . . perhaps it will come May 15, perhaps at the end of the month."

May 15: "I can't take many more big trips (for inspection) . . . because one never knows when the invasion will begin. I believe only a few more weeks remain until things begin here in the west."

May 19: "I hope I can get ahead with my plans faster than before . . . I am wondering if I can spare a few days in June to get away from here. Right now there isn't a chance."

Of course he wanted to get away in June. For months he had been seeing to the anti-invasion measures needed to thwart the Allied attack. He estimated that the enemy had reached a "high degree of readiness" and that there was an "increased volume of messages going to the French resistance." He went on to say, however, "according to past experience this is not indicative that an invasion is imminent."

Of course he wanted to go home in June for a few days. June 6 was his wife's birthday. While Rommel presented her with a gift of a pair of handmade gray suede shoes, the Allied Forces attacked.



Associated Press

A town reborn—The French village of Carpiquet in Normandy as it looked in July, 1944, shortly after the Allied invasion, as troops cleared debris. Photographer Eddie Worth, now 76, revisited the village and shot the scene again 40 years later.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR MONDAY, MAY 21, 1984

D-Day revisited

Forty years later, Normandy prepares for a new invasion

By Stephen Webbe
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

"PEOPLE of Western Europe: A landing was made this morning on the coast of France by troops of the Allied Expeditionary Force. . . . The hour of your liberation is approaching."

Making the electrifying announcement from London was the supreme allied commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The date was June 6, 1944.

Some 156,000 United States, British, and Canadian troops had sprung from the sea and air onto the coast and fields of Normandy in Operation Overlord, to punch a gaping hole in Hitler's "Fortress Europe."

Now, with the 40th anniversary of D-Day fast approaching, thousands who took part in the greatest amphibious and airborne operation in history are about to return to the scene of their epic deeds.

Normandy, in short, is about to be re-invaded.

No one is exactly sure how many veterans will descend on the region to take part in the dozens of ceremonies, but Normandy is bracing itself to receive 100,000 visitors this year.

By one estimate, 30,000 of those will be equal numbers of US, British, and Canadian veterans returning, often with wives and family members, in scores of tour groups and aboard hundreds of coaches.

Two of those making the pilgrimage to Normandy are John Downing of Daytona Beach, Fla., and Clayton Booth of Wareham, Mass., veterans, respectively, of the 1st Infantry Division ("The Big Red One") and the 29th Infantry Division ("The Blue and Gray Division").

Both landed on that tenaciously defended stretch of coast code-named Omaha Beach, where the 1st Division and a regiment of the 29th suffered 3,000 casualties. When Lieutenant Downing's landing craft lowered its ramp, 20 men were hit. Some fell into the sea and drowned. Says Booth: "Anyone who says they weren't scared, wasn't there."

While the people of Normandy are welcoming the old soldiers, French President François Mitterrand will be receiving a host of foreign dignitaries. Scheduled to attend D-Day ceremonies in June are President and Mrs. RonaldReagan, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, King Olav V of Norway, and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, who will sail to Normandy in the royal yacht Brittania.

Not surprisingly, Normandy hotels are booked solid with veterans for the month of June. But many families have offered to put up individual veterans who have been unable to find hotel accommodation.

June's D-Day ceremonies will take place on many of the beaches and landing zones where the mighty Allied army poured into France, as well as in the cemeteries that became the final resting place for so many. There will be huge public ceremonies attended by heads of state and, undoubtedly, many private remembrances by individual veterans.

THE assault on Normandy began shortly after midnight on June 6, 1944, when the British 6th Airborne Division seized key bridges on the eastern flank of the invasion beachhead (see map).

As the 6th Airborne landed, the US 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions leaped from their aircraft over the southeast corner of the Cotentin Peninsula to perform a similar function on the western flank.

Although badly scattered, the 82nd took Ste. Mère-Eglise, while the 101st kept German reinforcements out of the area.

Then, at 6:30 a.m., the US 4th Infantry Division stormed ashore on Utah Beach just south of La Madeleine on the eastern base of the Cotentin Peninsula and quickly struck inland.

At the same time the US 1st Infantry Division and the 116th regiment of the US 29th Infantry Division assaulted Omaha Beach between Vierville-sur-Mer and Colleville-sur-Mer. Only extraordinary fortitude saved the day.

Probably the most daring *coup de main* was executed by the 225 men of the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions when, undaunted by gunfire and grenades, they scaled the 100-foot cliff at Pointe du Hoc three miles west of Omaha Beach to attack a battery of six 155-mm guns.

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D-DAY REVISITED...Continued

Later that morning, the British 50th and 3rd Divisions came ashore on Gold and Sword Beaches, respectively, while Canada's 3rd Infantry Division landed between them on Juno Beach.

In just over 11 months after the landings the Third Reich would cease to exist.

The heroism of the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions will be remembered on the morning of June 5 when a plaque commemorating the unit is unveiled at the Pointe du Hoc. Afterward a team of climbers from the 10th Special Forces — the Green Berets — will display their skills on the cliff face.

Early that afternoon there will be a ceremony in the British cemetery at Ranville near Pegasus Bridge, and at 4 p.m. 150 men from today's 82nd Airborne Division, stationed in Fort Bragg, N.C., will drift to earth outside Ste. Mère-Eglise in an exhibition parachute drop.

The following day, June 6, sees President Mitterrand and his distinguished guests at the Colleville-Saint-Laurent American cemetery above Omaha Beach where 9,386 US servicemen lie buried under marble crosses. The 4 p.m. ceremony is open to the public.

An hour and a half later the assembled heads of state will attend the dedication of a US memorial on Utah Beach. In the evening there will be a ceremony honoring the British 3rd Division at Hermanville.

Tourists planning to visit the Normandy beaches and environs in early June might do well to think again. The region's narrow country roads — no more extensive now than they were in 1944 — are likely to be snarled with traffic and the events besieged by crowds.

INCORRIGIBLE D-Day buffs might want to sortie from Paris on one- and two-day trips to Normandy's beaches during the first two weeks of June but, all in all, the going would be a lot easier later in the year. For instance, visiting the region's many D-Day museums is likely to be a good deal more pleasant when the crowds of tourists have thinned. There are many to see: from the Airborne Troops Museum at Ste. Mère-Eglise in the west to No. 4 Commando Museum at Ouistreham-Riva-Bella in the east.

Additional D-Day memorabilia is displayed in the Arromanches Museum, in the Utah Beach Museum at Ste. Marie-du-Mont, in the Museum of the Battle of Normandy at Bayeux, and in the Pegasus Bridge Airborne Museum at Bénouville.

For some returning veterans, the 40th anniversary of the Normandy landings will be a time to chew over the tactics employed by General Eisenhower and his commanders on June 6, 1944. Some will, no doubt, debate whether Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley, who commanded the US assault forces on D-Day, could have taken Omaha Beach with far fewer casualties had he accepted a range of specialized tanks offered him by the British.

Nicknamed "The Funnies," these included the "Crab," a Sherman tank whose whirling chain flails could beat pathways through mine fields; a Churchill tank with a 290mm mortar to pulverize blockhouses; and the Sherman swimming tank.

General Eisenhower requested a brigade's worth of the latter tanks but left the choice of other specialized armored vehicles to General Bradley. He turned them down.

The Omaha landings were ill-starred from the outset. Ernest Hemingway, who was aboard a landing craft heading for Omaha Beach that morning, watched as "solid green sheets of water . . . fell on the helmeted heads of the troops packed shoulder to shoulder in the stiff, awkward, uncomfortable, lonely companionship of men going to a battle."

The GIs, who reminded him of "pikemen of the Middle Ages," were soon "wax-gray with seasickness." They were also wet, cold, and apprehensive.

They landed to what historian Samuel Eliot Morison has described as "the best imitation of hell": beach obstacles and mine fields and a torrent of fire from artillery, mortars, machine guns, and rifles. Within 10 minutes of floundering ashore some 96 percent of the 197 men in Company A of the 116th Regiment had been killed or wounded.

AS Hemingway studied the shoreline, tanks "crouched like big yellow toads" burst into flames after being hit. Morison thought the Omaha defenses infinitely tougher than those the Japanese devised to defend Tarawa and Iwo Jima.

"Six hours after the landings we held only ten yards of beach," observed General Bradley in his 1983 autobiography, "A General's Life."

The attacking GIs soon discovered they were not merely facing the 716th Infantry Division, a static unit of low morale, but elements of the 352nd Infantry Division, a crack, mobile formation, battle-hardened on the Eastern front.

Staff Sgt. Clayton Booth of the 29th Division landed on Omaha in the evening. "We didn't realize how easily we could have been pushed back into the ocean," he says in a telephone conversation from his Cape Cod home. "You couldn't see the big picture. In fact we didn't realize how bad it had been until it was all over." His most vivid memories of June 6, 1944, are the concern he had over not being able to swim and "the way that the fellas stuck together that day." His most terrifying moment came later — when a cow stuck its head over a hedge. "That was one of the worst scares I ever got," he chuckles.

Eventually the dogged courage of the troops coupled with a relentless naval bombardment from a dozen destroyers turned the tide on Omaha. But it took 1,000 dead and 2,000 wounded to take the beach.

General Eisenhower later attributed light casualities on the British and Canadian beaches to tactical surprise and "the success of the novel mechanical contrivances which were employed."

IN his recent biography General Bradley claimed that he had rejected "The Funnies" because, being largely British Churchill tanks, their acceptance would have necessitated the retraining of drivers and maintenance men, and a separate spare-parts supply chain.

The general often returned to Omaha Beach to honor

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NEW YORK TIMES 21 May 1984 Pg. 9

French Are Said to Give a D-Day Rebuff to West Germany's Leader

By JOHN VINOCUR
Special to The New York Times

PARIS, May 20 — Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany sought, through intermediaries, to receive an invitation to the D-day commerorative ceremonies that will bring allied chiefs of state to France on June 6, French and American officials reported last week. But they said the initiative was turned aside and the West German leader would not take part.

The West German interest in being invited to the ceremonies was described as being greeted by allied officials with a mixture of surprise and discomfort, as well as a degree of sympathy for Mr. Kohl.

The ceremonies in Normandy, marking the 40th anniversary of the invasion of Europe in 1944 that led to the defeat of Hitler's Germany 11 months later, will be attended by Queen Elizabeth II, President Reagan, President François Mitterrand, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau of Canada and thousands of veterans.

"Kohl evidently saw the commerorration as an opportunity to mark the reconciliation between the Allies and Germany," an American official said. "Our position was one of not being against the idea in principle, but also one that was terribly relieved to be able to say, 'It's a French matter and they'll have to decide.'"

'Saying No Relatively Easy'

The French later made clear, according to Elysée Palace and Foreign Ministry officials, that the idea of Mr. Kohl's participation was not practical. A French official said the West Germans had "made saying no relatively easy" by making the inquiry at a relatively low level last month and not directly involving Mr. Kohl or President Mitterrand, who met today for private conversations at Saarbrücken, West Germany.

Mr. Kohl, who has excellent personal relations with both Mr. Mitterrand and President Reagan, was 14 years old when the war ended.

An American official said the West German representations went to the French, the Americans and the British. He described them as "about as distinct feelers as you can make without turning the enterprise into a very official matter."

A French Cabinet-level official said the West German request inspired a kind of double reaction in him.

"On the one hand," he said, "there is a lot of personal sympathy here toward Kohl and his good intentions. But then there is history. You can't just put a fancy whipped cream topping on it. The sensitivities of many of the veterans who will be coming back for the ceremonies are still very strong, and so are those of millions of people who will be watching on television around the world."

Elections a Factor

In fact, the question of inviting Mr. Kohl to France for D-day commemoration ceremonies appeared to have immediate political considerations in France relating to elections for the European Parliament scheduled June 17 in the 10 member-nations of the European Economic Community.

If the campaign has created little interest or passion elsewhere in Europe, it is unusually hard-fought in France because the elections have taken on the character of an approval poll of the Socialist Government. The Socialists are expected to perform relatively poorly, and they appear interested in avoiding an element of potential controversy — like an invitation to Mr. Kohl — in the middle of the campaign.

The extent of the continuing sensitivity to the German occupation of France during World War II, as well as its political resonance, was illustrated by sharp protests from former Resistance fighters in the last two weeks. They said it was a disgrace that Simone Veil, who is head of a moderate-conservative slate of candidates for the European Parliament, had allowed Robert Hersant, a newspaper publisher often accused of having been a collaborationist, to run on her ticket.

The protests made headlines in France, especially because Mrs. Veil is a survior of Auschwitz.

A small German memorial ceremony for soldiers who died in the Normandy campaign is to take place June 8 at the main German cemetery in the area at La Cambe, near Isigny.

D-DAY REVISITED...Continued

"the valiant men" who died there. "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero," he said.

The celebrations and ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of D-Day are by no means confined to France. Many events are scheduled to take place in southern England, where the invasion was launched.

For instance, on the afternoon of June 2 there will be a memorial ceremony at Slapton Sands on the coast of south Devon. (It was in the waters off this steeply sloping beach that some 700 GIs lost their lives during a practice invasion assault in April 1944 when German E-boats, in a sneak cross-Channel attack, sank two tank landing ships.) Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, will be in Portsmouth on June 3 to open a new D-Day museum.

At nearby Southampton, which saw the departure of 1,066 ships of all sorts on June 5, 1944, numerous D-Day celebrations are planned. Singer Vera Lynn, "The Forces's Sweetheart," who bewitched wartime Britain with such songs as "We'll Meet Again," will star in a gala commemoration evening at the Gaumont Theater in the city on June 2 and Herb Miller and his orchestra will be there in June and July to play the swing hits his brother Glenn made famous.

Quite simply, waves of nostalgia will be drenching both sides of the English Channel in June.

12-E Tuesday, May 22, 1984 Philadelphia Inquirer

A D-Day tale: How code words showed up in a crossword puzzle

Associated Press

LONDON — A 14-year-old schoolboy apparently was the unwitting culprit who led British intelligence to suspect that secrets of the 1944 D-Day landings in France were being leaked through a London newspaper's daily crossword puzzle, the paper reported yesterday.

If the Daily Telegraph's findings are correct, one of the minor but most baffling mysteries engendered by the Normandy landings has finally been solved.

The trouble began with the May 2, 1944, puzzle that contained a clue whose answer was *Utah*, and on May 22, a clue led to the word *Omaha*. Both were the Allies' secret names for Normandy beaches chosen for their landings. On May 27 came a clue whose solution was *Overlord*, the code name of the invasion. MI5, the British counter-espionage service, began to get interested.

The May 30 crossword had *mulberry*, the code name for the artificial harbors being built for the invasion. On June 1, the invasion was just five days away, and *Neptune*, the code name for the D-Day naval operation, turned up.

To MI5, the only possible explanations were an uncanny coincidence or a spy operating through the Telegraph's crossword puzzle.

Leonard Dawe and Melville Jones, the paper's crossword compilers, were questioned at length, as was Dawe's brother-in-law, Peter Sanders, a senior Admiralty official who was living with him. No answers were uncovered.

Forty years later, the Telegraph reported that a Wolverhampton property manager named Ronald French has provided a possible solution.

According to the Telegraph, French said that when he was 14 he was a student at a school where Dawe was the headmaster. Dawe used to invite boys to his study where, as a mental exercise, he would have them fill in blank crossword puzzles and afterward make up the clues, then send the puzzles to the newspaper, the paper said.

French told the paper that as a boy he spent a lot of time with the Canadian and American troops camped near his school, and that he had picked up five invasion code words.

For instance, when French filled in *mulberry*, Dawe made up a clue that went "This bush is a center of nursery revolutions," using the children's rhyme that begins "here we go round the mulberry bush."

French told the Telegraph: "Everyone knew the outline invasion plan, and they knew the various code words. Omaha and Utah were the beaches they were going to, and they knew the names but not the locations. We all knew the operation was called Overlord."

French said Dawe called him in soon after D-Day and asked to see his notebooks in which he had written what he learned from the troops. "He was horrified and said the books must be burned at once. He confiscated them and I suppose they were [burned]."

Dawe then gave him "a very stern lecture about national security and made me swear on the Bible that I would tell no one about the matter. I have kept to that oath until now," French said.

The D-Day landings launched the major Allied offensive against Nazi-occupied Europe that culminated in Germany's surrender and the end of World War II in the European theater in May 1945.

Before his death in 1963, Dawe told the British Broadcasting Corp. how MI5 "turned me inside out and ... grilled my brother-in-law." Jones, the other crossword compiler, also was "put through the works, but they eventually decided not to shoot us after all," Dawe said.

The paper said "full corroboration of the story is, of course, impossible to obtain."

LONDON TIMES 22 May 1984 Pg. 6

Bonn denies seeking D-Day invitation

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The West German Government yesterday dismissed as nonsense reports that it had lobbied for the participation of Chancellor Kohl in the ceremonies to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the D-day landings in Normandy on June 6.

A Government spokesman told a press conference here that the West German Government was not in theslightest way upset by an absence of any invitation to the Chancellor to join the Queen, President Reagan and President Mitterrand on the Normandy beaches.

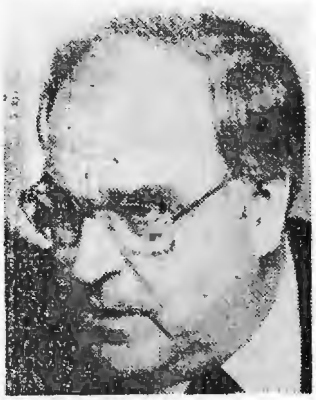
He said Bonn recognized that the occasion would be a time for historical reminiscence and had nothing to do with the present day situation in Europe, where West Germany played an important and positive role.

Clearly stung by suggestions, first voiced in French newspapers, that Herr Kohl had been rebuffed in an attempt to use the occasion as a public ceremony of reconciliation between the wartime enemies, the Government here has emphatically denied that even low-level soundings were made to float the idea of German participation.

A senior member of the Chancellery said Bonn was fully aware of the feelings and emotions that would be involved and had never asked or suggested the Chancellor should take part.

It had been rumoured here last week that Herr Kohl, who has frequently portrayed himself as the Federal Republic's first postwar Chancellor who never saw action in the war, wanted to lay a wreath on the memorial to German soldiers killed during the D-Day landings. It is understood that the West German Ambassador in Paris will represent Bonn instead.

A report in *The New York Times* yesterday, which the Government here has specifically rejected as based on false information, said the Germans had caused embarrassment by hinting that they wanted an invitation to be extended to the Chancellor.



Herr Kohl: Rebuffed, according to French press

NEW YORK POST
16 April 1984 Pg. 13

Prez so sorry he can't join Queen

LONDON (AP) — President Reagan has declined an "informal offer" from Queen Elizabeth II to travel with her on the royal yacht Britannia to Normandy for the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landings, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

In a report from its Washington correspondent, the newspaper said an acceptance by Reagan would have appeared "that he was favoring one ally [Britain] more than another [France]."

It said Reagan was expected to use his own aircraft to fly to France for the celebration of the allied landings on France's northwest coast on June 6, 1944.

The invasion launched the major Western offensive in the European war that ended the following year with the defeat of Germany.

The Normandy ceremony will be a highlight of Reagan's week-long visit to Ireland, Britain, and France, starting June 1.

Buckingham Palace assistant press secretary Victor Chapman declined comment as to whether the Queen had invited Reagan to join her on the yacht for the trip across the English Channel.

"But I do know that President Reagan won't be traveling with the Queen on the Britannia," he said.

Reagan and the Queen will be the guests of French President Francois Mitterrand for the Normandy ceremony.

FRENCH INVITATION TO D-DAY OBSERVANCES

LD241808 Warsaw PAP in English 1419 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Warsaw 24 May (PAP) -- In connection with French Minister Jean Laurain's information about an invitation extended by the French Government to the chairman of Poland's Office for War Veteran Affairs, as well as to representatives of Governments of Czechoslovakia, Denmark and Greece, to take part in D-Day anniversary ceremonies, a PAP journalist wrote:

"One can hardly fail to notice that the French Government's decision to invite Poles to attend the observances in question came very late -- much later than that to invite delegations from countries such as the United States, Great Britain and Canada whose soldiers, side by side with Poles, took part in the Normandy operation, and who, alongside Poles, liberated France from the Nazi occupation."

"Also, it is difficult not to see that such attitude aroused dissatisfaction among Polish war veterans, and especially among former soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West. This stand has also been shared by Polish public opinion as a whole."

"Hence, one can assume that there is a link between society's loud protest and the decision taken eventually by the French Government to invite a delegation from Poland to the anniversary celebrations."

NEW YORK POST 24 May 1984

D-Day's 'First on the beach' – I was just doing my job

By PAUL BEEMAN

HAD the Allied forces hand-picked the first American to storm the coast of France on June 6, 1944, he'd have been someone like Leonard T. Schroeder Jr., credited by press dispatches as the first invader from the sea at Utah Beach.

Schroeder was a 26-year-old ROTC captain, an All-America soccer star at the University of Maryland who went on to serve more than 30 years in the Army before retiring as a full colonel.

Now living in Largo, Fla., he says he deserves no special credit for his actions on that fateful morning 40 years ago.

"There were paratroopers who landed in France during the night," Schroeder says, "and demolition men and Seabees had been working the coastline.

"But if you have to narrow it down to the first guy on the beach at Normandy on D-Day morning, I guess it was me . . . That's what the papers said.

"I don't want to give the impression that I was a hero. All I wanted to do was what I was supposed to do and then get the hell out of there as quick as I could.

"If I had to do it again today, as old as I am now, I'd do it with the same enthusiasm we all had that day."

A disciplinarian nicknamed "Moose," Schroeder had honed his company into a crack unit during 2½ years of rehearsals and dry runs on the Gulf Coast of Florida and later at Slapton Sands in England.

Men of his company, Infantry Rifle Company F, 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, Fourth Division, 1st Army, were aboard a transport ship until they went down the nets into five LCVPs — the small boats that would carry them to the beach.

"From 1:30 in the morning until after 6 we were in the water bobbing around like corks," Schroeder recalls.

"A lot of us got sick. Nobody on the French side knew we were coming until they saw us eyeball to eyeball. The invasion was the greatest kept secret of all time.

"As we neared the beach, my boat broke out in front. The air force had been bombing the beach heavily, creating craters for us to use as cover.

"Some were covered by water and our boat hit one and stuck. The coxswain thought that was as far as we could go, so he dropped the ramp. That was the prearranged signal for us to go.

"I was standing right by the ramp and went down it first, right into the crater and about six feet of water."

He surfaced, spluttering, in water about waist deep 60 yards from shore.

"I was the first one to get to the beach, but it never dawned on me that I was the first anything," Schroeder says. "I was too scared to think about anything like that."

Company F completed its mission at the beach — knocking out a machinegun nest, taking a small fort and blowing a hole in the seawall for vehicles to follow in waves.

"We did a lot of killing at the beach and I got my share. You gotta do what you gotta do, and I killed people.

"That I did my share is the reason I'm sitting here."

An hour after he hit the beach, about a mile inland, Schroeder was shot in the left arm. He tucked his bloodied hand in his pants and walked on toward the village.

"All of a sudden I got woozy, and the next thing I knew I was back at the beach at an aid station," he recalled.

More than two weeks later, while he was recovering, he learned that he was being called the first on the beach.

"Baltimorean First to Invade Europe," read the headline on the Chicago Daily News dispatch by B.J. McQuaid.

Schroeder wanted "to go back to France, but they sent me back to the U.S. for medical reasons."

"I wanted to get back with my men. They'd become more like family to me than my own hometown."

Now, 40 years later, the colonel still ponders his luck.

"I even asked a priest why one guy gets it and the other lives," he said. "He told me to save that question for the man upstairs."

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1984

OPINION

D-Day: from the war front

By Richard L. Strout

KEN Crawford of Newsweek and I hired a room in London that summer 40 years ago and waited for D-Day, which finally came June 6, 1944.

In order to fool the Germans the authorities collected hundreds of journalists for fake invasions and we would dash off to various ports in England. One time we went to the home of Daphne du Maurier and I still remember the splendid magnolias. There was never any doubt that the invasion was coming, the secret was where. Elaborate deceptions were practiced. The enemy never guessed the actual place in Normandy; they thought it would be farther north.

Reporters were allocated to different tasks. I was assigned to the heavy cruiser Quincy, Captain Drury commanding, with a crew of 1,500, mostly from Boston. Ken Crawford was assigned to one of the assault units. He was supposed to stay aboard a landing craft and watch the invaders while I was in a big ship trying to compose a newspaper story amid the slam-banging of guns and a purser's cabin that shed a few rivets after each salvo. Crawford jumped overboard, immediately hit a pothole over his head, and came up without most of his gear. Hemingway called him the bravest man he knew. He scrambled ahead amid surge and billows of icy water and wrote what I think was the best eyewitness story of the day. (I have it before me now, published in Newsweek June 19, 1944.)

Reporters' problems were a little different from those of the invaders. We had to see what was happening, turn it into narrative, get it back to London and through the censors, and get it to our editors.

Frightened? I was scared; but the occupational anxiety was whether I could make the deadline on a newspaper 3,000 miles away. Some 150,000 troops were put on Normandy that first day (half teen-agers). All we had to do was to buck the traffic tide the other way with our color pieces. Once in a lifetime. Could we do it?

I wrote, "When we went to bed it was all quiet — not a vessel in sight in the Channel." When the German Army looked out the whole sea was filled, slow-moving craft under its own power, other craft being towed, including the makings of a whole harbor. Amphibious tanks, airplanes and gliders overhead. The whole thing trembled in the balance for a few hours. Then we had a beachhold. "We had done better than expected (said one account); losses did not exceed 20 percent."

Ken's account was eyewitness: "Down ramp! shouted the coxswain from the elevated stern. Down it came with a clank and a splash. Ahead — and it seemed at this moment miles off — stretched the sea-wall. We had all daubed our faces with commando black. I charged out with the rest, trying to look fierce and desperate, only to step into a shell hole and submerge myself in the Channel. Luckily my gear was too wet and stinking to put on so I was light enough to come up.

In order to fool the Germans the authorities collected hundreds of journalists for fake invasions and we would dash off to various ports in England. There was never any doubt that the invasion was coming, the secret was where. Elaborate deceptions were practiced.

"The soldiers were well out of the water, carrying packs, guns, heavy mortar parts, and radio equipment by the time I made the beach. They crouched low and ran ape-like." He continues, "Strangely there were no mines and no machine guns. Only artillery fire, and that directed against the boats."

The account carries details: "Just in front of me a shell burst in a cluster of seven men. Six crumpled . . . The seventh screamed in agonized amazement."

So that was the situation for two journalists. Now all we had to do in our respective spheres was to get our stories back to America.

In my case I had typed my piece in sextuplicate, and the USS Quincy (conveniently running out of ammunition) dashed me across the Channel so fast that the destroyer assigned to cover us gave up in disgust.

War correspondents notoriously arrived in London from the front in jitters. The official new pickup system had collapsed. Twelve hours later I had reached Waterloo Station, found a taxi, got into the Underground hugging typewriter, steel helmet, gas mask, and loads of gear and found my precious copy, sent ahead, just going through the censor. The earlier telegraphed version had arrived at 10:30 a.m. (5:30 a.m. Boston double daylight saving time). The Monitor's London bureau chief, Mallory Browne, and his valiant secretary were there in person trying to pry it loose.

The chaos of that office can hardly be told. Millions of invasion words trickled, streamed, and then cascaded in. My mood was murderous. My copy must pass the Navy, then the Army, and any part of it could be pooled for other news organizations.

I chinned myself on the lintel of the door. I waited 1¼ hours. It so happened that I could recognize my particular precious bundle of copy like a mother its infant. Other reporters examined it. Try to get sympathy from anybody else? Pooh! The Reuter man later on told me fragments of his masterpiece still dribbled in hours later. Mine had come to rest in a metal basket between censors. After a scene of which I am still ashamed (though not very much) I liberated it — and I made the edition. (By some means Ken got his piece in, too.)

And what did we write? Why guns, and planes and bombardment and bravery — the pitching landing barges disgorging Yanks and British and Canadians. They made D-Day a success and with Normandy the end of the war was in sight.

We did our jobs all right, didn't we, Ken?

NEW YORK POST 25 May 1984 Pg. 3

THEY WON WAR – LOST BATTLE OF THE BULGE

By KIERAN CROWLEY

THOUSANDS of American veterans of the 1944 invasion of Normandy — 40 years ago on June 6 — are set to make a sentimental journey back to the D-Day beaches.

The ex-GIs will join President Reagan, free world leaders, and thousands of other vets from Britain, France and the other allied nations who together launched the world's greatest invasion to crush Nazi Germany.

For former 4th Division infantry Staff Sergeant Daniel Galeone of Whiting, N.J. — who waded ashore with the second wave into the murderous fire on "Utah" Beach — the return to the Normandy beachhead is "a sentimental journey."

"It was pretty rough. We lost quite a lot of men," Galeone, 68, somberly told The Post.

"I didn't think that I was ever going to make it. The water was up to our shoulders and the firing was coming from all directions. We thanked the good Lord that we made it to the beach," said Galeone.

Galeone will go to France with his wife Maria and an old buddy from his outfit, former Sgt. Sidney Goldstein, 65, and wife, Beatrice, from Tamarac, Fla.

Both men, now retired, were awarded the Purple Heart for wounds.

"I was wounded on June 13th," said Galeone. "A sniper got me in my left arm. Later that day, a German shell got me in an apple orchard and that was the end of me — I woke up in a field hospital and the whole right side of my body had shrapnel in it," —

"Danny and I were in the same landing barge," said Goldstein. "You know it really was 'The Longest Day'.

"When Danny was wounded, I lost contact with him and he was sent back to the states, so now we're having our reunion and then we're going to the big one together," he said.

LOS ANGELES TIMES 27 May 1984 Pg. 1

History Fades Slowly

W. Germans Still Bearing Stain of War

By TYLER MARSHALL,
Times Staff Writer

BONN—For West Germans, preparations for the 40th anniversary June 6 of the Normandy invasion have become a painful reminder that history fades slowly.

West Germany has had economic and political success, it is known as a good neighbor, it has become a cornerstone of the Western Alliance and principal financial contributor to the European Common Market. It has not, however, been able to fully erase the bitterness of the past.

Despite the passage of nearly two generations since the war ended, lingering wartime sentiments still constitute an important, if little-mentioned, subcurrent that continues to influence political decision-making.

Earlier this year, when Chancellor Helmut Kohl visited Jerusalem, the Guardian of London observed: "The stain left on German history by the Holocaust is the exception which proves the rule that time heals all wounds. . . ."

Press reports of West German efforts to solicit an invitation for Kohl to attend the D-Day anniversary ceremonies in the spirit of reconciliation have been denied in Bonn, but there is little doubt that such an invitation would have been gratefully received.

'Emotions . . . Against It'

"It would have been a beautiful gesture, but emotions still run against it," said Dieter Ose, a military historian and the author of a book on Germany's defense of Normandy.

Instead, Kohl will meet his allies only the following day, in London, at an economic conference.

According to Ose, roughly half of the quarter-million casualties in the battle for Normandy were German. About 10,000 German dead are buried there.

Occasionally, West German groups visit the beaches, but the number expected for this year's anniversary is smaller than usual, in part because the Bonn government wants to reduce the potential for any anti-German incidents. A West German Defense Ministry tour of Normandy war cemeteries that had been planned for this month was postponed.

According to a man who had planned to make the trip, there was official concern that the group's presence at a time when many Allied veterans were there might provoke long-dormant feelings of enmity.

"The presence of many hundreds of Germans might bring problems, and also endanger French-German relations," an internal West German government document warned in March.

A group of 250 German veterans had hoped to travel to Normandy this week for a joint ceremony with British veterans at an Anglo-German cemetery, but the plan ran into trouble when adequate hotel space could not be found. Then, when Kohl was not invited, the plan was dropped altogether.

"We can't go where the chancellor is unwanted," said Hans Koerber, executive secretary of the Ger-

A German to head NATO? 'Impossible,' the official declared.

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W.GERMANS...Continued

han Veterans' Assn. in Bonn.

Foreign Ministry officials said the ranking West German at the D-Day ceremonies will be Bonn's ambassador to France, Franz Jochim Schoeller.

Kohl's press secretary, Eduard Ackermann, said in an interview that the idea of placing a wreath during the official ceremonies was discussed but was rejected because it might have brought "difficulties."

"We are friends again," Ackermann said, "but feelings are still strong, so there are things we can't do."

Few West Germans are more keenly aware of the limitations imposed by history than are the senior decision-makers in Bonn. A West German Foreign Ministry official sharply rejected a suggestion by former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger that a European eventually become supreme commander of North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, a post now reserved for an American officer. The post could never be filled by a German officer, the official said, even though the West German army is the largest in Western Europe.

"Absolutely impossible," he said. "Such things are not worth discussing."

More in a spirit of resignation than complaint, West German government sources say that in tough international negotiations there is still an occasional attempt to wring concessions on grounds of historical obligation.

An aide to Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff remarked: "After meetings that haven't gone well, we'll discuss why we didn't succeed. It's sometimes hard to find objective reasons."

An article in the current issue of the magazine Der Spiegel on the German-American dispute over the cost of U.S. Patriot missiles quotes an American diplomat as expressing what many West Germans believe has come to be the general belief among its negotiating partners: "You just have to squeeze the Germans hard enough. They always give way in the end."

Despite the involvement of other governments in the horrors committed by the Nazis, West Germany bears the historical burden of responsibility virtually alone. East Germany, by rewriting history, has neatly absolved itself of any responsibility for the Nazi past.

According to the East Germans, Adolf Hitler's Nazi followers killed mainly Communists, and East Germany is the legacy of those who resisted the Nazis.

The museum at the Buchenwald concentration camp outside Weimar in East Germany is largely a memorial to the Communist resistance.

Kohl seeks to put new distance between West Germany and its past.

The West German government has paid more than $10 billion in reparations to the state of Israel and to Jewish individuals, but East Germany has paid nothing.

Austria, which was part of Germany throughout the war, feels virtually none of the pressure brought to bear on West Germany.

In Asia, the prospect of Japanese rearmament is a matter of concern at home and in neighboring countries, but the emotional legacy of World War II that still affects West Germany's external relationships is said to play a smaller role for Tokyo than for Bonn.

Since Kohl became chancellor 20 months ago, he has embarked on the delicate task of putting new distance between West Germany and its past. He was 15 years old when the war ended, and he has projected himself as the representative of a new generation of Germans, aware of but not personally responsible for the past.

"My conscience is personally clear, but as chancellor I have the burden of German history to carry," he has said.

Kohl has personally taken part in efforts to develop West Germany's first memorial to Germans who fell in World War II, civilians as well as servicemen.

Kissinger Idea Rejected

Predictably, his position has led to controversy abroad. A West German plan to sell military equipment to Saudi Arabia, a potential adversary of Israel, brought an avalanche of criticism when Kohl was in Jerusalem.

When he was in Moscow last summer, Soviet leaders were said to have been shocked by his frank reminder that German reunification is an important, though distant, goal.

"The past is not yet all gone," Ackermann said. "Perhaps it can come with the next generation, those just now maturing. Maybe they can be freer."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 27 May 1984 Pg. 1

D-Day of 1984: Americans ready to invade again

By Storer Rowley
Chicago Tribune

"Soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force:

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. . . . The tide has turned."

—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, June 6, 1944

UTAH BEACH, France—Ted Liska remembers his numbing fear and trembling prayers in the landing craft before he hit this beach under shelling and sniper fire. He swore then that if he survived, he would come back here every year to honor those he left behind.

Liska, 66, will return to Normandy in June for the 37th

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D-DAY OF 1984...Continued

time in the 40 years since he crouched in the spray of the English Channel as a young staff sergeant with the 4th Infantry Division on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Almost every year for more than half his life, which started on the Northwest Side of Chicago, Liska has made pilgrimages to remember six comrades-in-arms who are buried in the American military cemetery east of here, overlooking Omaha Beach.

"I feel I owe it to them," Liska said. "Every year I put flowers at my buddies' graves. When I come there, I just can't understand why I survived and all these others were left behind. I feel God or somebody must have been looking after me."

LISKA AND LEGIONS of others haven't forgotten the savage fighting and bitter sacrifices that engraved a 59-mile stretch of Normandy's shoreline into the history of World War II.

President Reagan will join six heads of state, including Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, and as many as 200,000 other visitors to Normandy next month to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Allied D-Day landings, the greatest amphibious assault in history and the beginning of the end of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany.

Michael Deaver, deputy chief of staff at the White House, said Reagan's visit "will be a very special day for him. He feels strongly about the lessons of war. He's the last U.S. president who lived through four wars—ever.

"He wants this trip to symbolize the tragedy of war, the ultimate triumph of democracy and the strong American commitment to the security of Europe," Deaver said. "There have been 40 years of peace since then."

It will be Reagan's first visit, but it may be the last one for many veterans who are returning. It is perennial *déjà vu* for the French people who live in the villages and among the monuments and crumbling block houses to see Americans again. Only this time, the locals are calling it "the second invasion," the biggest since more than 170,000 soldiers in an armada of 5,000 ships arrived on a single day in 1944.

FORTY YEARS AFTER Americans dropped out of the night sky and stormed out of the sea to free them, these villagers are preparing to welcome them again. Years of annual rituals of remembrance have not worn out their gratitude.

"Americans are always received very, very warmly whenever they come back here," said Alice Mauger, 60, whose farm near Ste. Mere Eglise hosts American parachutists in annual re-enactments of GI jumps in the predawn hours before the invasion.

"Every house you go to has at least one American friend with whom they correspond or send gifts," she said in an interview in her 400-year-old stone house. "We always say that the Americans were our liberators. They made many sacrifices."

The remains of almost 10,000 soldiers lay beneath neatly aligned headstones on a hillside above Omaha Beach. Thousands more lay in similar Allied cemeteries that line the English Channel shore and dot the dairyland from Ste. Mere Eglise to Caen—row upon row of white crosses that etch themelves in the memory.

EAST OF THE AMERICAN assault beaches, now known locally by their code names of Utah and Omaha, are the British and Canadian beaches—Gold, Juno and Sword. At Arromanches, the artificial Mulberry harbor of sunken concrete blocks still partially protects the coast. Summer homes face the beaches at Ouistreham and Courseulles, where the menacing fortifications of Hitler's much-vaunted Atlantic Wall once stood.

In Washington, D.C., the Pentagon established a special office of Commemorative Activities and Historical Observances last February to handle the unprecedented number of returning veterans groups, some of which see this year as an opportunity to go back to Normandy *en masse* one last time.

"The only thing I can relate this to historically is the reunions you had of Civil War veterans," said a commemorative office spokesman, Capt. Craig Nannos. "The 40th anniversary has become rather significant to us and the Europeans because how many [veterans] are still going to be in good health or even around for the 50th?"

The office's chairman, Gen. David Grange Jr., agreed, adding that "those memories are very vivid to them, some of the greatest moments of their lives." Grange parachuted into Italy and southern France and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German counteroffensive in World War II, as a private first class.

HE SAID D-DAY AND what followed were "the beginning of an alliance that's in place today." A partnership that planned and executed D-Day, called "Operation Overlord," planted the seeds that became the Marshall Plan, reconstructing a war-torn continent and continuing through NATO. The measure of the U.S. commitment to the partnership, he noted, is in the graves of the 10,000 soldiers who died in the battle against the German defenses.

"I have a lot of friends who are still there. Thirty-three pairs of brothers were buried there. You're emotionally overwhelmed by it all," Grange said.

Today, children play on the rusty old weapons of war at Utah Beach, where exceptional preparations are underway for the anniversary. An American president has never come to Utah Beach while in office, though Dwight Eisenhower was supreme Allied commander in the landings and later returned after leaving the presidency. President Jimmy Carter visited Omaha Beach in 1978.

"It's exceptional," said Janyne Lot Gazengel, 50, a tour guide in the Landing Museum here. "This many people, this much preparation. It's because President Reagan is coming. Thousands and thousands of people are coming. I've never seen such preparations."

Gazengel was 10 when she saw her first American. He was holding a gun on her father, Guy, who had emerged too quickly from hiding and surprised the GI on D-Day morning. She said her father and mother, Marthe, took her to the protective trench of a neighbor in the night's bombardment.

The wife of the neighbor was killed in the night, and the father and three children were wounded, she remembers. Gazengel said she had refused to go to her own family's trench because she was an only child and wanted to be with other children. Her family's trench was destroyed by a direct hit.

AFTER THEIR liberation, Gazengel said, she stood at a window of her home in the village behind Utah Beach and yelled *"Bonjour, soldats"* to the soldiers passing. "They'd throw chocolate and gum and candy, and within 15 minutes you'd have a wealth of things around your feet. They were generous. They gave a lot.

"My generation is really the last that knew the liberation as living history. A lot of the public now is about 40 years old, and they don't know of it. It's not the same thing for them."

Of her own generation, she said: "They were wounded. They lived through it. They were prisoners. They were soldiers. They saw the horrors of war. It was war and it left its mark on them. It had to. Now the people who come through here are younger and don't look at it the same way. They must be told it more strongly than those of us who lived

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D-DAY OF 1984...Cont'd

through it.

"When visitors used to come through here, you heard, 'I remember this. I remember that.' Now you don't hear those expressions anymore," she added.

Former Sgt. Leonard Lomell, 64, of Thomas River, N.J., led a group from the 2d Ranger Battalion up Pointe du Hoc on D-Day, a 100-foot precipice three miles west of Omaha Beach where German guns were thought to be threatening the fleet.

RANGERS SCALED the vertical cliffs under withering fire, only to find that the Germans had moved the guns to get them out of range of the U.S. aerial bombardment. Only 90 of 225 Rangers who started the climb were able to bear arms at the end of the day.

"We set off rockets with our grappling hooks, climbed the cliffs and all the Germans stood along the cliffs firing down at us," Lomell recalled. "We took a lot of casualties but fought through to the top and went on to find the guns. They were back a mile and a half inland. It was just pure luck we found them."

After 2½ days of fighting German counterattacks, he said, only 13 of the 20 men in his unit walked away when they were finally relieved. Lomell is leading a group of veteran Rangers who will stay with French hosts in June.

"The way I look at it, what we do is really in memory of all those guys who made the supreme sacrifice. We're just lucky to be here," he said.

For D-Day veterans like John Hovan, 71, a retired machinist who lives on Chicago's Southwest Side, Normandy represents only the horror of war. Hovan, a private with the 29th Infantry Division, came ashore under heavy fire at Omaha Beach in the sixth wave at 7 a.m.

"**A BLOODY MASSACRE**, that's what it was," he recalled. It was the most savage and desperate battle of D-Day, where the Germans came closest to throwing the invaders back into the sea. To this day, the beach is called Bloody Omaha.

"There's nothing for me there," said Hovan, who went back once to visit the cemetery. "I wouldn't go back, not even right now for this big thing they're having. No, my friend. I was there, and I was very fortunate to come back home. When I went there [to the cemetery], I didn't feel good. My heart broke in half and I felt, 'What the hell good did it do? What good did Korea and Vietnam do?' No, I don't want to go back there."

The other extreme is Liska, who was born and reared in Chicago and now lives in Mons, Belgium, managing the U.S. Army's transient quarters at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. He has missed only 3 anniversaries in 40 years.

Phil Rivers, superintendent of the American cemetery above Omaha for the American Battle Monuments Commission, said the area is bracing for the biggest turnout of veterans since the invasion.

THE FRENCH ARE closing schools in the area, and villages are preparing to welcome back the American GI groups planning ceremonies and reunions throughout early June in Normandy.

"The flame still burns very, very strongly. There's still a very strong sense of cooperation and very much a sense of gratitude," Rivers said.

An American visiting the GI cemetery at Omaha for the first time recently walked among the endless rows of white stone crosses at dusk. "It's very sobering," she told a companion. "But I think it's one of the most peaceful places that I've ever visited. It's very serene."

MIAMI HERALD 27 May 198- Pg. B-1

Old soldier remembers, fears others will not

By JOHN ARNOLD
Herald Staff Writer

He thinks that it was one of the most important things that has ever happened in the world.

And the memory of it seems to be fading.

Julius Eisner is a 62-year-old postman who is losing his hair and who is growing tired. And he knows that today is never like yesterday. He knows that times change and people do forget.

But when he was 22, he jumped from an airplane into a dark, uncertain night to help save the world from a mad dictator. It was June 5, 1944, the night before D-Day, the invasion of Normandy. And no one knew then who was going to win.

In the fighting that followed, it seemed that living or dying was all a matter of luck, and the difference between heroism and death was only the difference between being in the right place at the right time and in the wrong place at the wrong time.

In France, fields are filled with white crosses and with the corpses of those who did not make it back.

Memorial Day is no holiday for him.

"It will be a somber day. I'll sit there and reminisce. I'll be a little melancholy.

"To a lot of people, it's just another day off. They go to the beach. They get dressed up and take their kids to see fire engines."

On Memorial Days past, he would join the parade of 82nd Airborne Division veterans in Coral Gables. "We used to parade down in Coral Gables. But the guys are dying out. Fewer guys are showing up. They're getting slower as time goes on. Their wounds are starting to bother some of them now. They don't want to get up for anything unless they have to.

"They're all in their 60s and 70s."

On that night 40 years ago, he parachuted into a field near a French town called Ste. Mere Eglise to set up radio beacons to guide the planes that would drop the rest of the 82nd Division.

His outfit, the 505th Regiment, raised an American flag over Ste. Mere Eglise even before the dawn of the day of the great invasion. It was the first town to be liberated by the Americans in France.

And so he carried a Browning automatic rifle through the battles that followed. He was wounded twice, once in a fight against a German 32mm gun and again trying to dislodge a German division from a railroad yard near the Rhine River.

He had already been discharged in September 1945, when the 82nd came home from Europe to march in the victory parade on Fifth Avenue in New York City. "It was all the replacements who were marching." It was Jan. 12, 1946.

"I had to climb a tree to see them," he said. "I remember because it was my birthday."

His English wife-to-be sailed for America from Great Britain on the maiden voyage of the Queen Elizabeth. "I married her in 1946, Nov. 11, Armistice Day.

He has his memories and an album full of photographs of those days.

One of his treasured pictures shows some 505ers and himself in England before the invasion. Of the 11 men in the picture, only five lived to the end of the war.

"We didn't know what we were up against. If we had known what we were up against, maybe we wouldn't have tried.

"Maybe Adolf Hitler would be running the world.

"If you weren't involved in it, you forget it.

"It's only natural."

NEW YORK NEWS MAGAZINE 27 May 1984 Pages 6,7,28

THE LAST GOODBYE

For thousands of old soldiers still able to make the trip, the 40th anniversary of D-Day is the big one. . .

BY JONATHAN MANDELL

"HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A DECK awash with blood and condensed milk?" journalist A. J. Liebling asked his bartender more than a decade after D-Day.

"No," the bartender said, going off to serve some drinks. He came back. "If you seen that, Joe," he said, "it will stay with you."

And so it has, for the professional observers like "Joe" Liebling who were there on June 6, 1944—and for all the other journalists and screenwriters and historians and combat buffs who have helped make D-Day one of the most relived battles in history.

But it has stayed the strongest with the 200,000 American, Canadian, British and French soldiers who crossed the Channel in 4,000 ships, 11,000 planes and countless small craft to fight on the beaches of Normandy during the single day that virtually determined who would win World War II.

Thousands of these veterans are returning to Normandy next month for the 40th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. The ceremonies will be elaborate, televised, crowded and attended by as many as eight heads of state, including President Reagan, Queen Elizabeth and President Francois Mitterrand of France. Nobody knows exactly how many veterans will be making the trip, but, according to travel agents and officials of veterans' groups, many people made reservations two years in advance; every hotel in a 100-mile radius is booked and overbooked. Says one travel agent, "It's going to be a madhouse."

Yet, even more veterans are contemplating the trip. "I'd like to go, if somebody would give me $2,000," says Charles Devlin of Brooklyn, who was part of the 101st Airborne Division. "I haven't decided yet. I just want to spend a few days in Normandy and that's it. I just want to see some of the small towns I was in—retracing my steps, from the town I jumped into, to the town where I got hit."

There have been annual ceremonies in Normandy all along, of course, but the 40th anniversary will clearly be the largest migration to Normandy since D-Day itself. The reason is simple. The veterans, on their own, decided to make the 40th the big celebration, rather than the 50th, because many of them feel they may not be around in 10 years; now is the time when most of them have retired and are still healthy enough to make the trip.

"This will probably be the last time I'll be able to go back," says Gerhard Grant, one of 2,000 veterans who are visiting Normandy as part of Galaxy Tours, an agency based in King of Prussia, Pa., that has arranged battlefield tours for decades. Grant had been on Galaxy's two previous D-Day tours, in 1974 and 1979. "This will probably be the last one," says Grant, who arrived 30 days after D-Day ("D+30," in military parlance) as part of the Fourth Division ("the Fighting Fourth, they called it"; among the ceremonies each year on June 6 is a wreath-laying at the monument to the Fourth Division on Utah Beach). "I'm going back to remember the big event," Grant says, "the most exciting time in my life."

But some veterans don't understand the hoopla being made over the anniversary. "Who the hell cares anymore?" says one D-Day veteran who has never returned, talking from a local outpost of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "I wouldn't want to go back. All that's there is sand, water and maybe flowers. Everything else is down below. You can't see them." Thousands of men are buried there; nearly 10,000 men were killed in the first day of fighting.

Some people think the attention being paid to the anniversary is misplaced. "What about the GI Bill of Rights?" asks a Pentagon official. "That was signed into law just 16 days after D-Day. Half the houses built since then in the United States were built with GI loans. Forty percent of all the people who've been to college in the last 40 years went there on the GI Bill. The GI Bill is a greater milestone than the damn anniversary of D-Day. That was just a battle."

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THE LAST GOODBYE...Continued

But the battle—the greatest air and sea assault in history—continues to hold its fascination for people like Herbert Freimark of Brooklyn, who was there on June 6, seeing action on all five beaches invaded during D-Day. There was, however, little danger of his being hurt, because his tour of duty took place in 1980. His trip, which cost $4,000, was part of an unusual tour package organized by a New Orleans travel agent and called "D-Day to the Rhine." It followed the path of the Allied forces and included, as "action," two weeks of lectures by everyone from Eisenhower's son to Rommel's son to the head of the French underground. Freimark, a veteran of a later time who says he's "a military buff and historian, a CPA by profession," is returning on the same tour this year. "Julie Eisenhower might be with us this time."

But for many of those who will be there, the return to D-Day will be a far less academic experience. They will be looking for the schoolhouse that shielded them from German guns, or the bridge they were ordered to defend, or the stretch of sand in which their best friend was killed. In New York City, the home of more than 400,000 veterans of World War II, veterans of D-Day like Joseph Lipsman of Flushing view the events of 40 years ago with considerably mixed feelings. "It was the highest point, and the lowest point, in my life," he says.

His experience overseas was unpleasant from the start, from the very trip across the Atlantic aboard the *Queen Mary*, which was being used as a transport ship. The ship, escorted by two small British warships called corvettes, had to change course every 10 minutes to avoid detection by German submarines. During one such zigzag, the Mary accidentally ran over one of the corvettes, splitting it in half and killing the men aboard.

After training, and waiting, in England for 20 months, Lipsman set off as part of the 29th Division in a boat with about 30 other men. "It was terrible weather. They almost postponed it. I know I upchucked like mad. I'm a poor sailor anyway. But I think almost everybody in the boat was sick."

When the boat approached the shore, the ramp at its bow slammed down directly on a mine. The Allies had tried to sweep the area—the Germans had planted more than four million mines and other obstacles.

Photos by Ken Korotkin

John Reville, left, of Beechhurst, Queens, took 60 prisoners on D-Day and was awarded a Silver Star and a Purple Heart, while Joseph Lipsman of Flushing can still hear the whir of artillery.

The mine exploded, knocking down all 40 men and fatally injuring at least two in the front. "They were lying there bleeding," Lipsman says, "but we were told to get off and we did, into waist-deep water. We got to shore and it was a terrible ordeal, a horrible sight.

"We were pinned down for the first few hours. Everything was quite a mess. Nobody knew what was going on. All the plans got fouled up. There was small-arms fire all around. All our artillery had sunk. Some men in my platoon got killed. There's nothing more terrifying than hearing the whine of a bullet or the whir of a bomb coming down. The two most horrifying sounds in the world. That's about all that I remember the first day."

Lipsman stayed in Europe until the end of the war, winning a medal for bravery, and avoiding getting killed, he says, only because he was lucky enough to get an assignment that got him off the front lines.

Back in New York, he resumed his life as a printer, and talked little about what he had been through. Having been there for D-Day seemed to be a badge of honor for every veteran he ran into, so much so, he says, "it seems like every soldier in the United States Army was in the invasion. But after I question them, they say, 'Well, I landed a week later.' "

While he avoided thinking much about the war, he did not avoid the men with whom he shared it. He joined the 29th Infantry Division Association and attended about eight of its reunions, which is the only time he ever talked about the war. (Like many of the D-Day veterans, he belittles his own involvement and praises his division: "I feel that the 29th Division never got the recognition it deserved.") Each year since his release from the Army, he has sent Christmas cards to about 60 of the veterans around the country. He and the other veterans annually send money to the children of Vierville-sur-Mer, one of the first towns they liberated, so they can have a party. "To me anyway," he explains, "after 3½ years together, a certain bond cemented us together."

His experiences also shaped his political attitudes. "They say Korea and Vietnam were 'police actions,' " he says, coloring the last two words with distaste. "It seems a sorrowful thing to make them sacrifice their lives for a police action. When I was at war, even though it was a terrible thing, there was a reason. I was fighting for my country. Not for a 'police action.' "

He first thought about going back for the 25th anniversary, as

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THE LAST GOODBYE...Continued

part of a tour sponsored by his Association, but family obligations forced him to cancel. Then, he says, "in later years, either we couldn't afford it or something cropped up."

Lipsman, now 70, is glad he is returning for the first, and probably last, time—he wants his wife to see Europe, he says, but that's not the whole reason. "I always wanted to go back once. It was part of my life. It was important, it was historic, I was doing a job my country wanted. I don't brag about it, but I'm not ashamed to say I was part of the D-Day invasion."

WHILE JOSEPH Lipsman will be content to follow the itinerary of his Association's tour, John Reville plans a detour that he hopes will bring him much further into his past. "I'm very excited about this trip," he says. "My brother's been tracing the family tree, and it turns out there's a town called Reville in Normandy. I must have been within 15 miles of that town." Reville hopes to establish that his ancestors came from that town in France, moving to Britain, ironically, with William the Conqueror during history's *second* largest cross-Channel invasion. "Then, 900 years later, I went back the other way."

But Reville's return will also bring back some personal memories, which now exist mostly as memorabilia at his home in Beechhurst, Queens: the books (such as "The Longest Day," the story of D-Day by Cornelius Ryan that was made into a movie; Reville is listed in the back), the medals (Silver Star, Purple Heart), the scrapbooks, the photographs. "That's Capt. William Runge," Reville says, showing pictures of the man both as a soldier and at reunions over the years. He smiles. "He came from Iowa. His family owned a string of undertaker parlors. We used to kid him. 'Hey Bill, plenty of business for you today.' "

Reville was a member of the Rangers, an all-volunteer group within the Army that was among the first to land at Omaha Beach, in the sector of the beachhead known as Omaha Dog Green. "That little thin red line on the map—that was us. There was nothing ahead of us. Your best defense was just to run like hell." Reville led a platoon within the Fifth Battalion of 35 men. Within a week, only he and two other men remained. "It couldn't have been luck," he says. "Somebody was looking out for me."

Reville's first day is an amazing story of assaulting enemy outposts, engaging in firefights, throwing grenades, killing Germans and taking 60 prisoners. "You do have a tremendous feeling of exhilaration, especially when the battle is stopped and you're alive. You sort of dread it, but there's nothing to match it for excitement. I hope that doesn't sound weird to you; it's not that you want to kill people. It was just like that old saying—I was glad I went through it, but I wouldn't want to do it again."

After the war, Reville entered the New York Police Department, part of a war-delayed group of 4,000 who joined at the same time in September 1946. "I think we were the best officers the department's ever had. We were more mature, more disciplined, we had been through the war."

Reville went to his first reunion of Rangers in 1955 and relived the war. But he doesn't talk much about it otherwise, not even with other veterans. "People don't want to listen to war stories," he says, closing his scrapbook. "If you haven't been in combat, you don't have that much in common." □

Jonathan Mandell edits Only in New York for the Magazine.

LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL 27 May 1984

Normandy anniversary adds meaning to Memorial Day

IF THE SIXTH OF JUNE, 1944, was "the longest day," then May 28, 1984, may well begin the longest Memorial Day. In a very real sense, the day won't be over this year until commemoration of the Allied assault on the beaches of Normandy, 40 years ago next week, is complete.

That may take most of the summer — none too long for a superb reminder of why we celebrate Memorial Day. The chiefs of state of the nations that took part in history's greatest seaborne invasion will mark the 40th anniversary with elaborate ceremony. But that will be only a beginning, and perhaps not the most significant part.

Thousands of the ordinary Americans, Canadians and Britons who battled Hitler's Germany on the beaches and in the hedgerows of Normandy will return this summer to mark the occasion with less pomp but surely with deeper feelings. Travel agencies are swamped with bookings.

Commemoration, not celebration, is the right word. Memories of the grim combat that was the beginning of the end for Nazi power will not inspire joy. But there will be satisfaction and well-earned pride for those who served — and, surely, recognition from those who didn't.

The visitors will see the fruits of 40 years of peace that their efforts made possible. The sorrow of revisiting scenes of death and perhaps finding graves of fallen friends will be tempered with the knowledge that they not only did their duty well, but did it in a struggle that was as unquestionably just as war can be.

A bit of the mourning, surely, will be for the unity of purpose and the moral certainties that have faded so drastically since 1944. It's possible to exaggerate the patriotic fervor of those days. Not every eligible American marched willingly off to save the world from conquest by military dictators, nor even sacrificed unstintingly on the home front.

But most did their duty, in Normandy and on hundreds of other battlefronts. Many did much more. World War II inspired a degree of unity unmatched before or since in America's history. Cooperation between allies was almost unprecedented. The war could be called, without embarrassment or irony, a "crusade," in the best sense of that word.

The greatness of the cause, of course, made matters no easier for those who stormed the beaches on the dawn of the now-famous Sixth of June. Neither good causes, bad ones, nor those somewhere in between are shields against fire and metal. Like rain, the consequences of war fall on the just and unjust alike.

So the wisdom to prevent war is the only protection. Those who stormed the Normandy beaches could, if given the time, have reflected on how easily the democratic nations could have prevented catastrophe before Hitler built the great Nazi war machine.

What they couldn't have known was that they were engaged in humanity's last opportunity to retrieve such errors through an all-out war. Even as they fought, the instruments that would turn the prospect of such a war from "mere" catastrophe to mutual annihilation were being prepared.

The saddest thought in this memorial season is that this grim fact has brought no assurance of lasting peace. Forty years *have* gone by without a general world conflict, which is much to be grateful for. But lesser wars abound. A new arms race between the two great powers gathers speed.

This Memorial Day weekend, reflections on the past inevitably must turn to the future, and to hope that wisdom to maintain the peace bought in Normandy and on a thousand other battlefronts of the second World War will at last be found.

TIME Magazine 28 May 1984

June 6

The anniversary will be a state occasion. Queen Elizabeth will cross the channel in the Royal Yacht, *Britannia*. Other chiefs of the old Alliance—Reagan and Mitterrand and Trudeau, the Queen of The Netherlands, the King of the Belgians—will assemble for the ceremonies before some of them go on to an economic summit in London. They will fly in helicopters over the famous beaches—Omaha, Utah and the rest. They will inspect the surf through which the invaders struggled 40 years ago, young amphibians buffeted by waves and torn by crossfires. Their landfall, in a chaos of metal and smoke and dead bodies, began the end of the thousand-year Reich.

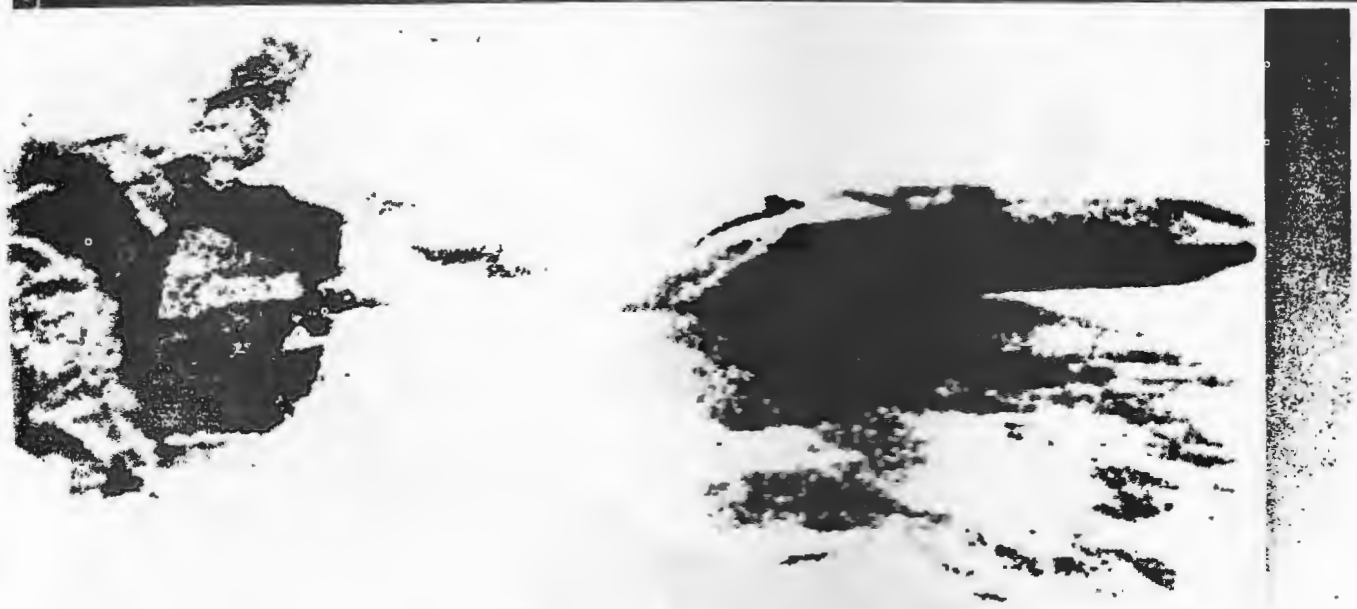
Ordinary Americans and Englishmen and Canadians and others, now in late middle age, will come as well. They will wander over the pastoral killing ground. They will search in the cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer for the graves of friends they fought beside. They will think of themselves singing as they set off from England, "Glory, glory, what a hell of a way to die . . ." They will remember exactly the spot where they were pinned down by German machine guns, or where a shell blast sent a truck pinwheeling. They will go up again to Pointe du Hoc and shake their heads again in wonder at the men who climbed that sheer cliff while Germans fired down straight into their faces. The veterans will take photographs. But the more vivid pictures will be those fixed in their minds, the ragged, brutal images etched there on the day when they undertook to save European civilization.

The ceremonies in Normandy will celebrate the victory and mourn the dead. They will also mourn, almost subliminally, a certain moral clarity that has been lost, a sense of common purpose that has all but evaporated. Never again, perhaps, would the Allies so handsomely collaborate. The invasion of Normandy was a thunderously heroic blow dealt to the evil empire. Never again, it may be, would war seem so unimpeachably right, so necessary and just. Never again, perhaps, would American power and morality so perfectly coincide.

For one thing, it is difficult for history, more than once every few centuries, to invent a villain like Hitler and then propel him to such enormous power. The bad guys are rarely so horrible—although this century has been rather richly cast. Normandy in

Photograph by Robert Capa—Magnum

1944



later years became an almost unconscious reply to the pacifist view of war, for Operation Overlord led to the final destruction of a tyranny that was deemed more terrible than war itself.

Besides, the terms of war changed in the world. After Normandy and Eisenhower's "Crusade in Europe" came Hiroshima, and then the cold war and the pervasive, sinister presence of the Bomb that has made crusades more problematic. If a confrontation like Normandy were to transpire now between superpowers, a struggle to the death, it might be called Armageddon.

Normandy was, of course, a joint Allied operation. But the Americans, from Eisenhower down, dominated the drama. The invasion, in a way, was a perfect expression of American capabilities: vast industrial energy and organizational know-how sent out into the world on an essentially knightly mission—the rescue of an entire continent in distress. There was an aspect of redemption in the drama, redemption in the Christian sense. The Old World, in centuries before, had tided westward to populate the New. Now the New World came back, out of the tide, literally, to redeem the Old. If there has sometimes been a messianic note in American foreign policy in postwar years, it derives in part from the Normandy configuration. America gave its begotten sons for the redemption of a fallen Europe, a Europe in the grip of a real Satan with a small mustache. The example of Hitler still haunts the Western conscience and the vocabulary of its policy (*Munich* and *appeasement*, for example). But when the U.S. has sought to redeem other lands—South Viet Nam, notably—from encroaching evil, the drama has proved more complex. The war in Viet Nam, in fact, had many Americans believing that the evil resided in themselves.

So the experience of Normandy, bloody as it was, has a kind of moral freshness in the American imagination, a quality of collective heroic virtue for which the nation may be wistful. *Liberation* meant something very wonderful and literal then. It had not acquired the cynical even Orwellian overtone one hears in, say, "the liberation of Saigon." And there were things that seemed worth dying for without question. Today the questions always seem to overshadow the commitment. The morals of sacrifice, so clear then, are more confusing now.

—*By Lance Morrow*

D-Day

TIME/MAY 28,1984

COVER STORIES

"Every Man Was a Hero"

Forty years later, a military gamble that shaped history is recalled

"From this day to the ending of the world,
. . . we in it shall be remembered,—
. . . we band of brothers;
For he today that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother."
—King Henry V

The wind howled in the darkness as they went to the meeting. It was just before 4 a.m. on June 5, 1944, and the rain slashed at them "in horizontal streaks," Dwight Eisenhower recalled later. The commanders of Operation Overlord were gathering around the fireplace in the library of Southwick House, outside Portsmouth, to hear a Scottish group captain named J.M. Stagg predict the next day's weather. On the basis of Stagg's calculations, Eisenhower would have to decide whether to give the attack order to the nearly 3 million troops assembled in southern Britain for the greatest seaborne invasion in history, the assault on Hitler's Atlantic Wall.

Just the previous day, Stagg had warned that a gale would strike on June 5, and Eisenhower had reluctantly ordered a 24-hour postponement of D-day. The first troopships, already at sea, had to be called back. But now that the storm was actually upon them, Stagg offered what he called "a gleam of hope for you, sir." The next day, June 6, there would be some clearing of the skies, a break of perhaps 36 hours, no more. The cloud ceiling over the Normandy beaches would be about 3,000 feet, the waves only about three feet high.

The risks were tremendous. Postponement would mean another month before the moon and tides would again be so favorable, yet a miscalculation now might end in enormous casualties, perhaps even a shattering defeat. "I . . . sat silently reviewing these things, maybe, I'd say, 35 or 45 seconds . . ." said Eisenhower, who had reviewed these same things many times before. "I just got up and said, 'O.K., we'll go.' "

It has been written that there is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. Until Eisenhower made his decision, and until the highly uncertain outcome of D-day was assured, it was still theoretically possible that Hitler might yet win the war, or at least achieve a stalemate that would leave him the master of most of Europe.

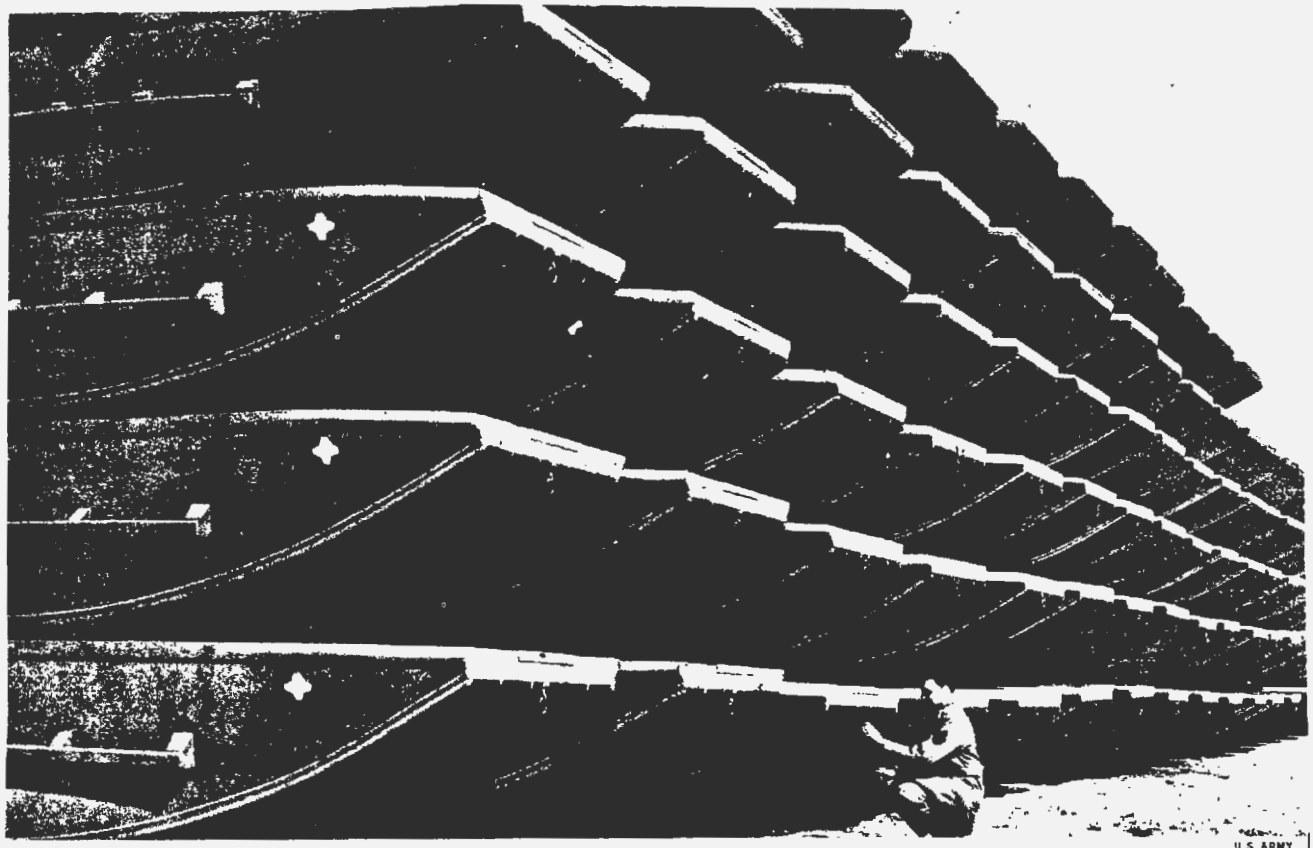
The Allies had regained a great deal since the darkest days of 1941 and early 1942, when the Germans' panzer divisions swept to within 40 miles of Moscow and their Japanese allies struck at Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, Malaya. The hitherto invincible Japanese navy had been checked at the Battle of Midway in June 1942, the Soviets held fast at Stalingrad, and the Anglo-American invasion of North Africa that autumn inspired Churchill to say that although victory there might not be the beginning of the end, it was perhaps "the end of the beginning."

Now, two years later, the Soviets had smashed all the way to the Polish frontier; the Americans had pushed northward to the gates of Rome; fleets of Allied bombers were steadily pulverizing all the major cities of Germany. But Hitler's battle-hardened force of 7 million men still dominated an empire extending 1,300 miles from the Atlantic to the Dnieper, and his scientists were on the verge of unsheathing their promised victory weapons, the long-range V-1 buzz bomb and V-2 rocket.

When and where to attack Hitler's *Festung Europa* was a question that the Allies had been debating for years. After Pearl Harbor, many American military leaders were adamant that the fight against Japan receive top priority. But the Army Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall, and Marshall's head planner, Brigadier General Eisenhower, argued for a strategy of throwing all possible resources into an invasion of France and the over-

Omaha Landing

Drenched by the waning storm in the English Channel, and seasick as well, American troops heading for Omaha Beach hunker down as German shells burst near their landing craft. Many of the heavily burdened troops had to scramble out into neck-deep water with machine-gun bullets splashing all around them. At least ten of the landing craft foundered, as did 27 of the amphibious tanks assigned to provide support in establishing the beachhead.



U.S. ARMY

Buildup for Battle

In southern Britain, stacks of pontoons await shipment to France, where they were used to erect bridges. The two-year preparations for D-day required the greatest supply buildup in history: 2 million tons of weapons, mountains of K rations and candy bars, all bound for an artificial harbor named Port Winston.

throw of Hitler. Their major reason: the Soviets in 1942 were in full retreat, suffering heavy casualties and warning that the whole eastern front might collapse. Roosevelt and Churchill promised Stalin that they would open a second front by 1943.

Despite that promise, however, the British were haunted by the debacle of 1940, when they barely escaped destruction by evacuating their defeated army from Dunkirk just before the fall of France. They were no less haunted by the enormous bloodletting of World War I. "Memories of the Somme and Passchendaele," as Churchill put it, ". . . were not to be blotted out by time or reflection." Churchill persuaded Roosevelt to delay a risky assault on France and strike an easier target: North Africa. When that proved a swift success, the British continued urging a "Mediterranean strategy": an invasion of Sicily, an advance up the Italian peninsula. But the Italian campaign turned slow and bloody, and the American generals in Europe re-emphasized their basic plan to invade northern France, Operation Overlord. Marshall passionately wanted to take command of the operation himself. When Roosevelt insisted that he could not spare him, Marshall assigned the task to Eisenhower, by then a four-star general. Eisenhower went to London in January 1944 to lead what he was to call, on D-day itself, "a great crusade."

The Germans knew an invasion was inevitable. "An Anglo-American landing in the West will and must come," Hitler told his key commanders that spring, but he added, "How and where it will come no one knows." The obvious place to attack was the coastal bulge known as the Pas de Calais, only 20 miles across the English Channel from Dover. That was where Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, whom Hitler had assigned to defend the Atlantic Wall, expected the landing to come. Rommel deployed his whole Fifteenth Army there, 208,000 men, to defend every mile of beach. "The first 24 hours will be decisive," he said.

The Allies went to great lengths to nourish this German illusion. They repeatedly bombed and shelled the Calais area as though to soften it up for an invasion. They even created an illusory docking area near Dover, complete with inflated rubber tanks, fake landing barges, dummy warehouses and barracks. Eisenhower assigned his friend, Lieut. General George S. Patton Jr., to command a largely phantom "First United States Army Group," which sent out messages about imaginary activities of the nonexistent troops. The British, meanwhile, created a fictitious "Fourth Army" in Edinburgh to threaten an invasion of Norway. The British were secretly monitoring the German response to the Allies' feints with ULTRA, the system by which the British had cracked the German code and could eavesdrop on all German military radio traffic.

The real goal, of course, was the crescent-shaped row of beaches along the northern coast of Normandy. They lay 100 miles from the great British ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, a span that no invader had successfully crossed in nearly three centuries. The Allies spent two years turning all of southern Britain into an arsenal and point of departure. They built 163 new airfields. They shipped in 2 million tons of weapons and supplies, 1,500 tanks, mountains of food and fuel. Since the targeted beachfront lacked harbors, Allied engineers built two enormous artificial harbors that could be towed across the Channel and moored in place once the beaches were won.

D-day was supposed to be early in May, but when British Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery took up his post as

The Strategists

Memorable figures on both sides. Clockwise from upper left: Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower, the military diplomat, as he wishes luck to parachutists of the 101st Airborne just before their departure for the drop on Normandy; Britain's tempestuous Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery, operational commander of land forces, briefing reporters on the campaign's progress; Germany's independent-minded Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who was charged with defending the Atlantic Wall; and Lieut. General Omar Bradley, the quiet, self-effacing commander of the U.S. First Army.

Eisenhower's deputy for ground forces that January, he immediately balked at the preliminary plans for a 25-mile-wide invasion front. He told Eisenhower, who already had strong misgivings of his own, that the front must be much broader, about 50 miles, so that the Allies could land at least five divisions, instead of the planned three. The planners said they did not have enough landing craft for such an expansion. Get them, said Montgomery. That was impossible by the May deadline, said the planners. Then change the deadline, said Monty.

This was the final plan: 58,000 men from the U.S. First Army under General Omar Bradley would attack on the western section, at two strips code-named Omaha Beach and Utah Beach. To the east, a force of 75,000 men, drawn mostly from Lieut. General Sir Miles Dempsey's British Second Army but also including a Canadian division and an assortment of French, Polish and Dutch troops, would invade three adjoining beaches, Gold, Juno and Sword. Some 16,000 paratroopers from the U.S. 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions would drop in first to guard the western flank against counterattacks, and 8,000 men of the British 6th Airborne would seize and guard the eastern flank.

On the German side, Rommel had some 500,000 men strung out along an 800-mile front from Holland to Brittany, and he knew only too well how vulnerable they were. Since the bulk of German power was committed to the Russian front, his 213,000-man Seventh Army, charged with defending Normandy, was an untested force, filled out with middle-aged conscripts and unreliable recruits from Eastern Europe. Only 70,000 of the defenders were stationed near the targeted beaches. The Luftwaffe's fighter defenses had been seriously depleted in two years of air battles, and the remnants were in the process of being pulled back to defend the Reich itself. Three crack panzer divisions stood ready as a reserve, but Rommel could not count on them, for Hitler insisted on retaining personal control over their movements. Only recently had Rommel succeeded in organizing a crash program to install 1 million mines a month along the heavily barricaded beaches.

The most serious German failure, though, was in military intelligence. Apparently because of the bad weather, neither naval patrols nor reconnaissance planes maintained surveillance of the invasion preparations on the crucial last day before the landing. German meteorologists assured their commanders that the storm would prevent any Allied attack, and that prediction prompted Rommel to take a quick trip home. His wife's birthday happened to fall on June 6. When Rommel heard the news from Normandy at his home near Ulm, he could only say, "How stupid of me! How stupid of me!"

German intelligence had managed to learn in advance that when the BBC broadcast a sequence of two well-known lines of Verlaine's poetry, it was announcing to the French underground that the invasion would begin within 48 hours. At 10:15 p.m. on June 5, a German radio monitor with the Fifteenth Army in Calais heard the second line, *"Blessent mon coeur d'une langueur monotone"* (Wound my heart with a monotonous languor.) The monitor warned his superiors; they ordered an alert, but nobody ever passed the word to the Seventh Army. These German intelligence failures and Eisenhower's daring gamble on the weather combined to give the Allied commander the one great weapon that he absolutely had to have: surprise.

Unaware of the German lapses, the Allies agonized until the last moment about the tremendous risks they were taking. "I am very uneasy about the whole operation ..." said Sir Alan Brooke, chief of the Imperial General Staff, as late as June 5. "It may well be the most ghastly disaster of the whole war." In that same final week, Eisenhower's British deputy for air operations, Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, formally protested to Ike about the planned American parachute assault, which he said would result in the "futile slaughter" of two fine divisions.

Eisenhower could hardly help being troubled. "I went to my tent alone and sat down to think," he said. If he canceled the airdrop, that would leave the invaders of Utah Beach vulnerable to a German counterattack. He decided to stick to his plan. There is often, at such times, a sense of fatalism, of something preor-

Command of the Air

Unopposed A-20 bombers from the U.S. Ninth Air Force attack German coastal defenses. Allied air superiority proved critically important throughout the Normandy campaign, first in softening up German positions, then in guarding the invaders on the beaches and finally in harassing German tanks moving forward for counterattacks. Germany's dwindling supply of fighters had been moved back to defend the Reich itself against punishing Allied bombing raids.

dained. General Matthew B. Ridgway, commander of the 82nd Airborne, felt it no less strongly. "Sometimes, at night," he recalled, "it was almost as if I could hear the assurance that God the Father gave to another soldier, named Joshua: 'I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.' "

Eisenhower spent that last night among the men of the 101st Airborne, who called themselves the Screaming Eagles. They had blackened their faces with burnt cork, and many had shaved their heads so that they looked like Indian warriors. They were tense and nervous, weighed down with not only rifles, pistols, knives and grenades but also cigarettes, first-aid kits, fresh socks, about 100 lbs. in all. Eisenhower's talk was simple but encouraging: "Where are you from, Soldier? Did you get those shoulders working in a coal mine? Good luck to you tonight, Soldier."

As the long line of twin-engine C-47s began taking off at seven-second intervals from Welford shortly after 10 p.m., Eisenhower stood there watching, his hands sunk deep in his pockets. He went on watching until the last plane circled into the darkness overhead. A correspondent standing near him said the general's eyes were full of tears. That same afternoon, after he watched the first troop convoys preparing to depart, Eisenhower had scribbled a strange note for himself, a message that would be ready if everything ended in disaster: "Our landings . . . have failed . . . The troops, the Air and Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone."

The 822 C-47s flew in tight, nine-plane V formations across the English Channel, an armada of shadows, only their lavender wing lights clearly visible in the thin moonlight. They took more than three hours to cross the Channel, then they dropped to 700 ft. to make their landing run. Suddenly they plunged into the turbulence of a thick bank of clouds. The pilots reflexively separated to avoid collision. As they emerged from the blinding clouds, sheets of flak began exploding all around them. Sergeant Louis Truax saw his plane's left wing hit, and then the paratroopers went sprawling. "One man dived out the door headfirst," he said. "I grabbed the ammo belt . . . of the man I thought next and gave him a heave out nose first. The next man made it crawling . . . Then I dived."

Some men were dropped miles from their landing sites, some were dropped far out at sea, some were dropped so low that their parachutes never opened. Private Donald Burgett recalled that they "made a sound like large, ripe pumpkins being thrown down against the ground." The 101st's commander, Major General Maxwell Taylor, was dropped at 500 ft. and said later, "God must have opened the chute."

There was another unforeseen hazard. The Germans had permitted a number of rivers to flood the fields, and many paratroopers landed with their burden of supplies in three or four feet of water. Father Francis Sampson, a Catholic chaplain, sank into water over his head and just barely managed to cut himself free from his chute. Then he had to dive down five or six times to retrieve his equipment for saying Mass. Private John Steele had a different kind of religious problem: his parachute caught on the steeple of the church in Ste.-Mère-Eglise, so he played dead while German patrols prowled the streets below. A stray bullet hit him in the foot. He watched another ammunition-laden paratrooper land on a burning house and explode. Others were shot while hanging in trees. After two hours, a German finally spotted Steele, cut him down and took him prisoner. American forces later rescued him when they occupied the town, the first in France to be liberated.

All night long the scattered paratroopers worked to re-establish contact, snapping cricket noisemakers to locate each other. (Most of their radios had been lost, along with 60% of their other supplies.) Sometimes the cricket sound drew German gunfire, but more often it brought lonely stragglers together into makeshift units (others remained lost for days). "When I began to use my cricket," General Taylor recalled, "the first man I met in the darkness I thought was a German until he cricketed. He was the most beautiful soldier I'd ever seen, before or since. We threw our arms around each other, and from that moment I knew we had won the war."

Sometimes a single man could overcome absurd odds. Staff Sergeant Harrison Summers of the 101st was ordered to take 15 men and attack a German artillery barracks known only as WXYZ, actually a cluster of stone farm buildings. When the 15 showed signs of reluctance, Summers somewhat recklessly decided to goad them by leading the charge himself. He kicked in a door and sprayed the room with his submachine gun. Four Germans fell dead, and the rest ran out a back door. None of Summers' men had followed him, so he alone charged the second building; the Germans fled. By this time, one of Summers' men was providing covering fire as Summers burst into the third and fourth buildings, killed twelve Germans and chased out the rest. A private crept up and said to Summers, "Why are you doing it?" Said Summers: "I can't tell you." Said the private: "O.K., I'm with you." At the next building, the Americans killed 30 more Germans. Then they found 15 Germans inexplicably eating breakfast and shot them all. At the last building, the support gunner's tracers set the roof on fire, and an additional 30 Germans stumbled out to be shot down.

To the east, the British 6th Airborne had a somewhat easier time of it. Landing close to their targets just after midnight, the glider troops and parachutists caught the Germans by surprise. By dawn they had captured their main objectives, the bridges across the Orne and Dives rivers, securing the eastern flank of the British landing site.

The American assault from the Channel was set for 6:30 a.m. In the first gray and misty light, the sea suddenly appeared full of ships, some 5,000 vessels of every variety, and from the giant battleships came a deafening barrage. The *Texas* and *Arkansas*

Widening the Breach

ROBERT CAPA—MAGNUM

U.S. troops and equipment kept pouring onto Omaha Beach after the D-day victory to reinforce units pressing inland. Barricades implanted by the Germans were a major obstacle to the first wave of invaders, right; but once the beaches could be partly cleared, Allied convoys funneled enormous quantities of supplies across the Channel from England, including more than 80,000 trucks and other vehicles during the first eleven days. The average G.I. used an estimated 30 lbs. of food, ammunition and other supplies every day.

trained their 14-in. guns on German artillery batteries atop the cliffs towering over Omaha Beach; the *Nevada* and three cruisers pounded nearby Utah Beach. Twelve miles offshore, thousands of infantrymen scrambled down sheets of netting into the boxlike landing craft that began chugging toward the heavily mined and barricaded shore. Aboard the flagship *Augusta*, General Bradley stood with ears plugged by cotton and watched through binoculars as the vanguard of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions waded slowly into German machine-gun fire on Omaha Beach. "The commanders who are engaged report that everything is proceeding according to plan," Churchill was to announce proudly in the House of Commons at noon that day. "And what a plan!"

To the top commanders, everything is always part of a plan, but to the ordinary soldiers in the landing craft, the invasion seemed more like a series of fragments that added up to chaos. The storm that was supposed to have died down still churned up waves four and five feet high, and the landing craft wallowed through them. White-capped waves slurped over the sides. Seasickness became epidemic. Drenched, shivering, scared and loaded down with almost 70 lbs. of wet battle gear, they had to keep bailing.

At least ten of the 1,500 small landing craft foundered. One lost 30 men out of 32 aboard. Others took shellbursts and a steady pinging of bullets against the steel sides. Still others collided with the jagged obstacles and barbed wire that the Germans had embedded along the beach. The heavily burdened invaders had to scramble out into neck-deep water, or worse. A number of amphibious craft loaded with artillery turned back. Armored units had an even harder time. Their Sherman DD tanks were outfitted with devices that were supposed to keep them afloat while they lurched ashore, but of the first 32 launched, 27 sank in the choppy waves and plunged to the bottom, taking most of their helpless five-man crews with them.

"Bullets tore holes in the water around me and I made for the nearest steel obstacle . . ." said Robert Capa, the only photographer to go ashore with the first troops. "Fifty yards ahead of me, one of our half-burnt amphibious tanks stuck out of the water and offered me my next cover . . . Between floating bodies I reached it, paused for a few more pictures and gathered my guts for the last jump to the beach . . ."

Lieut. Edward Tidrick was hit in the throat when he jumped into the water. Another bullet hit him as he lay on the beach. He gasped out a last command: "Advance with the wire cutters!" There were no wire cutters; they had been lost in the blood-streaked water.

Everywhere there were noise, explosions, gunfire and wrenching cries for help. "Medico! Medico! I'm hit! Help me!" Aboard one landing craft, a German shell struck a flamethrower strapped to one soldier's back. The explosion set the whole landing craft on fire, and it burned all day long, the fire punctuated by explosions from the craft's ammunition supply.

Captain Charles Cawthon of the 29th Division managed to reach cover under the embankment at the far end of Omaha Beach, and there he found that his gun was clogged with salt water and sand. "The embankment was strewn with rifles. Browning automatics and light machine guns, all similarly fouled," he recalled. "Except for one tank that was blasting away from the sand toward the exit road, the crusade in Europe

at this point was disarmed and naked before its enemies."

Several officers desperately tried to move their pinned-down men off the beach. But there were only four heavily defended exit roads and the bluffs ahead. "They're murdering us here!" cried Colonel Charles D. Canham, commander of the 116th Regiment, a blood-soaked handkerchief around his wounded wrist. "Let's move inland and get murdered."

Brigadier General Norman ("Dutch") Cota, assistant commander of the 29th Division, waved his .45 pistol as he strode heedlessly through the gunfire. When he found a cluster of soldiers in the shelter of the embankment, he asked them who they were. They said they were Rangers. "Then, goddammit," said the general, "if you're Rangers, get up and lead the way." They did. Under the cover of a brushfire that had been started by the Navy shelling, 35 men managed to scale the bluffs and get behind the German gun positions.

Another unit of 225 Rangers under Lieut. Colonel James Rudder was dispatched to Pointe du Hoc, a 100-foot-high promontory four miles west of Omaha and ten miles east of Utah. Their assignment: to knock out six heavily defended German 155-mm guns that could command both beaches. They fired rocket-propelled grappling hooks up to the top of the cliff and then began the fearful climb up ropes and ladders. The Germans splattered the oncoming Rangers with machine-gun fire, grenades, even boulders, and they managed to cut several of the ropes on which the Rangers were inching upward. By the time Rudder's men had seized the cratered cliff (and radioed back, "Praise the Lord"), only 90 of the 225 could still bear arms. And the German guns they had fought to capture they found hidden in an orchard a mile away, apparently moved as a result of earlier air raids.

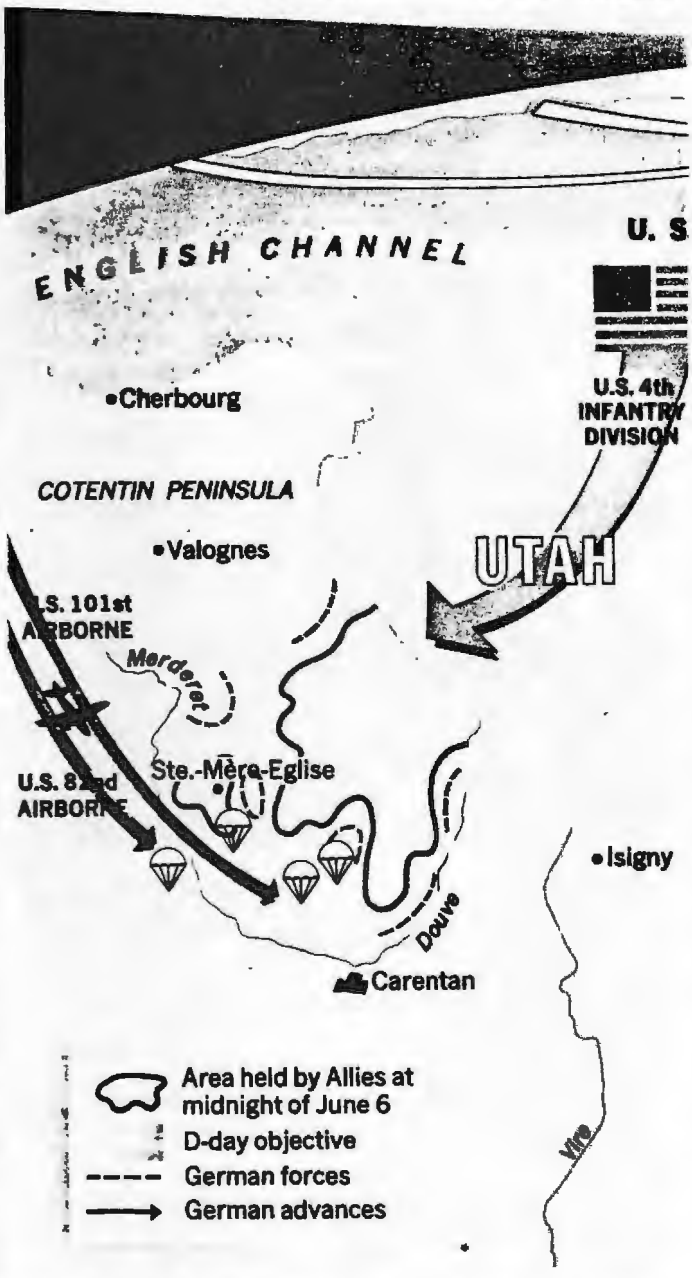
The ships, meanwhile, kept ferrying in more troops, more guns, more supplies. Major Stanley Bach of the 1st Infantry Division managed to scribble a few notes: he saw a landing craft hit three mines. "Navy men go flying through the air into the water. They never come up." He saw a shell hit a beached landing craft, "flames everywhere, men burning alive." And again: "Direct hit on 2½-ton truck gasoline load; another catches fire . . . men's clothes on fire . . . attempt to roll in sand to put out flames."

And still the Navy kept bombarding the coast. "The destroyers had run in almost to the beach and were blowing every pillbox out of the ground with their five-inch guns," wrote Ernest Hemingway, who watched from one of the landing craft. "I saw a piece of German about three feet long with an arm on it sail high up into the air in the fountaining of one shellburst. It reminded me of a scene in *Petrouchka*."

When General Bradley first spotted the faint shapes of his soldiers' corpses scattered along the beach, he began to fear that "our forces had suffered an irreversible catastrophe." He even considered abandoning Omaha Beach and diverting the reinforcements to Utah. But at 1:30 that afternoon he finally got a radio message that said, "Troops formerly pinned down . . . advancing up heights." Later, when the "nightmare" was all over, he could only say, "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero."

By the end of D-day, the Americans held the ridge of cliffs overlooking Omaha Beach, and had pushed about a mile inland. They had landed two-thirds of their forces and suffered more than 90% of their casualties there. East and west of Omaha Beach, the landings had gone much more successfully. The U.S. 4th Division had seized Utah Beach with relatively little opposition and joined forces with the paratroopers who had been dropped near Ste.-Mère-Eglise. The British and Canadians had overwhelmed their three beaches and advanced about three miles inland toward the city of Caen. All told, the Allies had landed five divisions, some 154,000 men. It was a very precarious grip on the European mainland, but for this day, it would suffice.

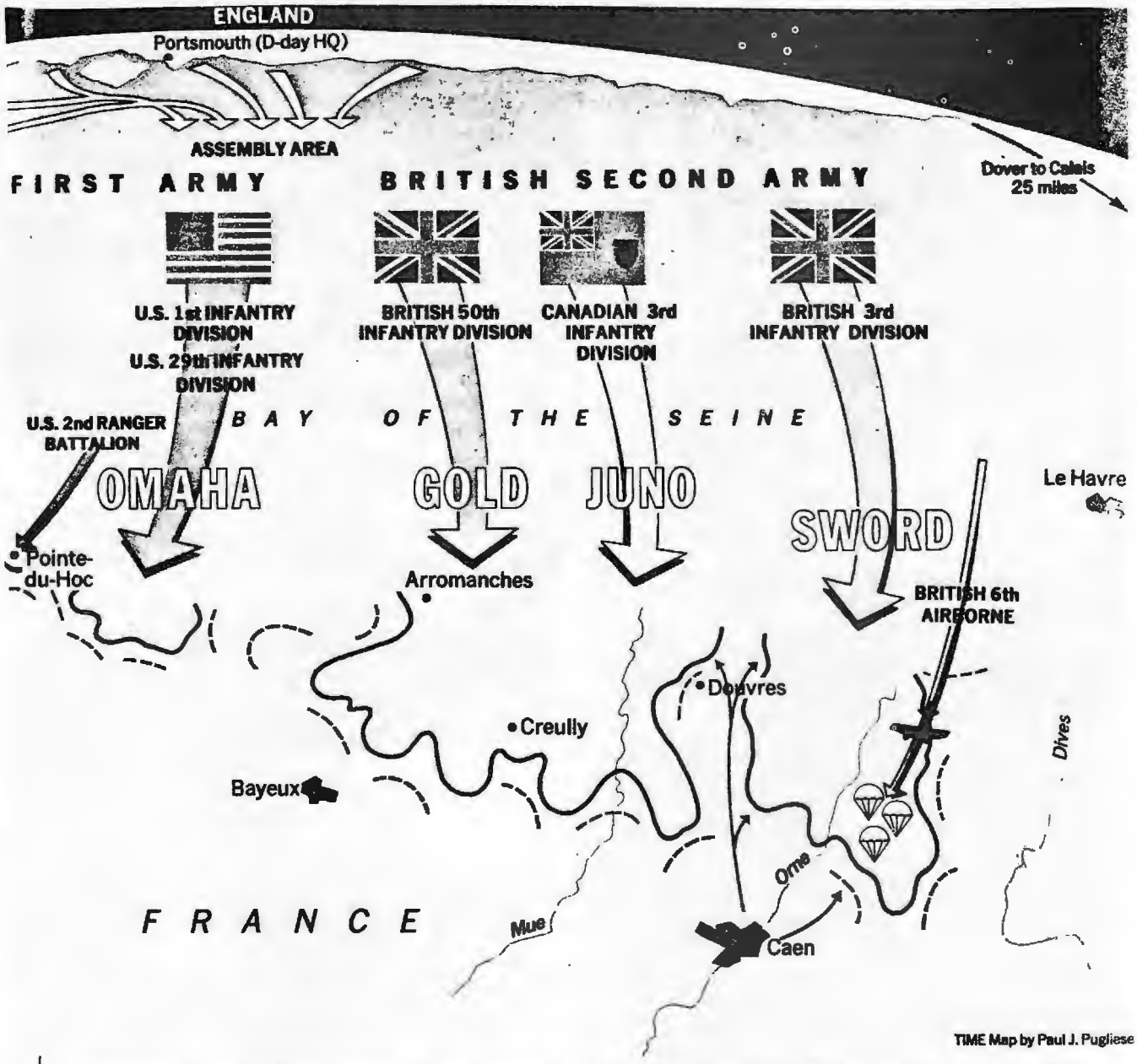
Victory did not come cheap. The American losses reported for that day were grievous: 1,465 killed, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing. The British, who never announced their losses, were estimated to have suffered 2,500 to 3,000 casualties. Canadian casualties came to 946. Total Allied casualties: about



10,000. Estimates of German casualties: 4,000 to 9,000.

If there were mistakes and failures on the Allied side, they were insignificant compared with the blunders by the Germans. Not only did Rommel spend D-day speeding through the countryside, not only had the Luftwaffe withdrawn all the planes that were needed in Normandy, but the armored regiments that should have been thrown into the defense of Omaha Beach could not move without direct orders from Hitler, and Hitler's aides refused to wake him before 9:30 a.m.

When he did get up and hear the news, he persisted in believing that the Normandy invasion was just a feint, that he still had to guard against the real invasion that would occur at Calais. Not until ten hours after the Normandy landings did the first tanks of the 21st Panzer Division go into action against the British, and the British beat them back. When Rommel finally returned to his headquarters that night, he found his chief of staff, Lieut. General Hans Speidel, listening to Wagnerian opera records. One of Rommel's aides protested, but Speidel coolly answered, "You don't think that my playing a little music is going to stop the invasion now, do you?"



TIME Map by Paul J. Pugliese

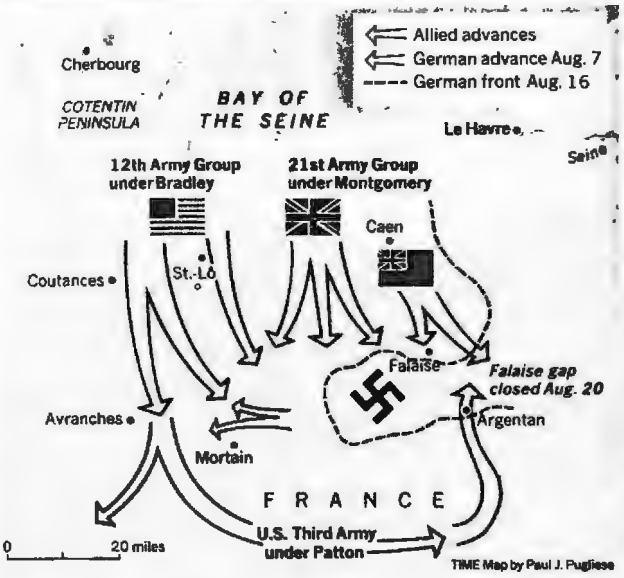
By then, nothing was likely to do that. The Americans kept pouring in; by the end of July, more than 800,000 had landed. With them came an almost unimaginable flood of equipment. Each day the average G.I. used up to 30 lbs. of food, ammo, gasoline and other supplies. More than 80,000 trucks and other vehicles landed in the first eleven days after D-day. Sixty million packs of K rations arrived in the first three weeks. Then came ice-cream machines, filing cabinets, blankets.

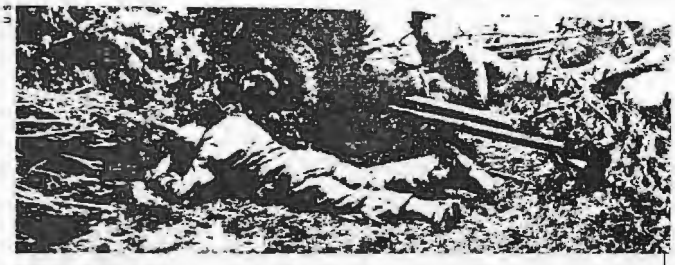
After the beaches had been secured on D-day, the first order of business was to organize a breakout. It had been an important part of Montgomery's strategy that British forces should thrust inland some 20 miles on D-day itself, well beyond Caen, a commercial crossroads. Partly out of caution, partly out of weariness, the vanguard of the British I Corps halted for the night about halfway there, some four miles north of the city. Compared with the victory on the beachhead, the failure to reach Caen that first day seemed a minor shortcoming. Montgomery even invited Churchill on June 10 to visit his forward headquarters in a lake-studded Norman château, and Churchill admired "the prosperity of the countryside . . . full of lovely red and white cows basking or parading in the sunshine."

The conquest of Caen was considered essential for Allied armor to break out of the checkerboard hedgerows of Normandy and move on to the plains leading to Paris. But Montgomery's British forces could not manage to rout the two panzer divisions that had quickly established themselves on the outskirts of Caen. In the first week, the British tried a direct assault; toward the end of June, they tried two encircling attacks. Each time they failed. On the night of July 7, some 450 heavy bombers pounded Caen. and only then did the Germans begin to evacuate the rubble.

Montgomery's failure aroused severe criticism. "Montgomery went to great lengths explaining why the British had done nothing," General Patton wrote bitterly in his diary. There was talk of removing the temperamental Montgomery, and Churchill almost urged it. Other critics* have faulted not only Montgomery but some of his commanders and troops, who seemed to have become cautious, unimaginative, war-weary.

*For example, Max Hastings, author of a skillful new study, *Overlord*, due out next month.





Allied Breakout

Two months of bloody stalemate ended with a U.S. breakthrough at St.-Lô, an ill-fated German counterattack toward Avranches, and Allied encirclement of Germans near Falaise. At right, U.S. antitank unit fires on German armor, and U.S. ambulances bring wounded soldiers back to the beach for transfer to Britain.

If so, it was painfully understandable, for the British alone had been fighting courageously against Hitler ever since the war began. While France collapsed and the Soviets stood as temporary allies of Germany, Churchill told his people that he had "nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat," and for five long years they had proudly pledged themselves to that offer.

On June 27, Major General J. Lawton Collins' VII Corps captured Cherbourg (after the besieged Germans had destroyed most of the port facilities), but the Americans remained just as penned in as the British. More than ▶ million men now appeared stalemated on a front of no more than 100 miles, and while neither side could win a decisive advantage in the swampy and hedgerowed terrain, both suffered heavy losses. "We were stuck," said Corporal Bill Preston of the 743rd Tank Battalion. "Something dreadful seemed to have happened in terms of the overall plan."

It was Bradley, working away with colored crayons on a set of maps in the seclusion of his tent, who figured out the solution that was to become known as Operation Cobra. "I said I didn't want to stand up and slug, but . . . at one time we were going to have to," Bradley told an aide. "Afterward we can make the breakthrough and run deep."

The point Bradley chose for slugging was a road that ran westward from the gutted city of St.-Lô toward a town called Périers. He picked "Lightning Joe" Collins to seize that road. At a cost of 5,000 casualties, the 29th and 35th Divisions finally captured the heights just west of St.-Lô.

Collins had discovered a secret weapon to get his tanks by Normandy's dense hedgerows. A sergeant in the 2nd Armored Division devised a way to attach to the front of a tank a pair of saw-toothed tusks, made from the steel barricades that once obstructed the landing beaches. These tusks could hack through a hedgerow in a few minutes.

Once the breakthrough came, it came quickly. Within a week after Collins' men had seized the St.-Lô–Périers road, General Patton's newly organized Third Army started to push south and in one day advanced 40 miles into Brittany. "Whether the enemy can still be stopped at this point is questionable," German headquarters near Paris warned Hitler. "The enemy air superiority is terrific and smothers almost every one of our movements . . . Losses in men and equipment are extraordinary."

Hitler launched his "retaliation" against Britain scarcely a week after D-day: some 2,300 V-1s hit London that summer, killing 5,400 civilians more or less at random. But this new terror weapon failed to achieve Hitler's hope of somehow reversing Germany's military fortunes. On June 23, the Soviets launched a gigantic midsummer offensive across a 300-mile front east of Minsk and demolished 28 German divisions within a month. On July 20, Hitler's own Wehrmacht officers turned against him. Colonel Count Claus von Stauffenberg planted under Hitler's conference table a bomb that was supposed to kill the Führer. A shaken and partly deafened Hitler survived to wreak vengeance on the conspirators (even Rommel, who was not directly involved, was forced to take poison) and to add a manic streak to his own supervision of the war.

Hitler's top generals urged him to pull back from Normandy and establish a new defensive line on the Seine. Hitler refused. He ordered Field Marshal Günther von Kluge, his commander in the west, to launch an immediate counterattack against the American breakthrough force. Into this he flung not only the battered remnants of the Seventh Army but also the Fifteenth Army, which had been at the Pas de Calais awaiting the invasion that never came. Their mission: to cut through American lines to the port of Avranches and isolate the twelve American divisions that Patton had led south into Brittany.

Bradley was delighted at the prospect: "This is an opportunity that comes to a commander not more than once in a century," he gloated to a visitor from Washington. "We are about to destroy an entire hostile army." As the Germans plunged westward, Bradley began creating an enormous pincer to encircle them. Patton's tanks raced eastward toward Argentan while the British moved south from Caen toward Falaise. When Von Kluge's offensive hit the American lines near Mortain, it hit hard. But the Americans held until reinforcements could reach them. "What a sight they

were, coming off the hill!" one lieutenant said, recalling that moment toward the end of the six-day battle when the relief troops arrived.

Then Bradley began to close his pincers. Patton's forces reached Argentan on Aug. 12, and Bradley ordered Patton to halt there and wait for the British to reach Falaise. But it took another week before Canadian forces finally closed the trap. During that time, a sizable number of German troops managed to escape through the unclosed pincer, but a good many more failed. Within the trap, ten German divisions were taken prisoner, and bodies lay everywhere, some 10,000 in all. "It was literally possible," said Eisenhower, "to walk for hundreds of yards at a time, stepping on nothing but dead and decaying flesh." Bulldozers were called in to sweep away the carnage.

And so the battle for Normandy was over, and when it was, the end of the war was in sight. "If by the coming winter you have freed beautiful Paris from the hands of the enemy," Churchill had said to Eisenhower shortly before D-day, "I will assert the victory to be the greatest of modern times." Said Eisenhower: "Prime Minister, I assure you that the coming winter will see the Allied forces on the borders of Germany itself." It took less than a week after the closing of the Falaise gap, until Aug. 24, for the Allies to reach the gates of Paris. There was lots of hard fighting ahead—the Battle of the Bulge, Arnhem, not to mention Iwo Jima and Okinawa—but the Allied victory was now inevitable.

But what if it had all gone differently back there on the beaches of Normandy? What if the Luftwaffe had been there to bomb and strafe the invaders? What if the panzers had moved in quickly for a counterattack? What if the storm had suddenly worsened? What if the whole landing force had been destroyed on the beach?

Hitler once indulged in some sanguine speculations. "Once the landing has been defeated, it will under no circumstances be repeated by the enemy," he told aides. Roosevelt would be defeated in the 1944 elections, "and, with luck, he would finish up somewhere in jail." Even Eisenhower, a natural optimist, thought a defeat on D-day "might mean the complete redeployment to other theaters (*i.e.*, the Pacific) of all United States forces."

More probably, the consequences would have been somewhat less apocalyptic. The Allies were all deeply and emotionally committed to the destruction of Nazism, and American industrial power was already more than making up for the depletion of British and Soviet resources. The odds are that the Allies would have reorganized their forces and invaded all over again, perhaps aiming at southern France or the Balkans. And the atomic bomb was well under way. The war had to be won.

When the fighting ended, both victors and vanquished found themselves in a world that had been changed forever. Most important, perhaps, was that the U.S., long a second-rank power primarily concerned with its own affairs, was now the world's unique superpower. "The U.S. became conscious of its world role and of its duty toward the world," says former French Foreign Secretary Maurice Schumann, who waded ashore with a British unit on D-day. "That feeling remains."

Scarcely less important, though, was that the battered and backward Soviets had also won themselves a major role in the world. It was that prospect, in fact, that inspired some Western strategists to argue for a Normandy invasion as early as 1943, not only to help Stalin continue fighting but to prevent him from eventually dominating Central Europe. One such strategist was General Albert C. Wedemeyer, who helped draft the Overlord strategy later adopted by Eisenhower and Marshall. "The idea

Bloody Skirmishes

U.S. antitank unit, pinned down by sniper fire in a Normandy field, opens up on a house believed to be the source of firing. "I didn't want to stand up and slug," said General Bradley, "but at one time we were going to have to."

D-Day

here," says Wedemeyer, now 87, "was to get ashore as early as we could, advance as fast as we could, and at war's end have Anglo-American troops in control." Churchill too had hopes of advancing into the Balkans and perhaps even reaching Vienna before the Soviets. The Big Three leaders agreed at the Yalta Conference of February 1945, however, that the advancing Allied armies should meet in central Germany, thus dividing the conquered land and consigning Eastern Europe to the Soviets.

To more idealistic observers, the Allied invasions demonstrated the power of international cooperation. It was the success of the wartime alliance that inspired the founders of the United Nations in 1945. The Marshall Plan was the victorious general's idea for international economic reconstruction. Even when the cold war destroyed all hope of global cooperation, memories of the wartime alliance inspired the birth of NATO and the Common Market.

Other changes that were inherent in the peace of 1945 took longer to become fully clear. When the Soviet army liberated Maidanek and Auschwitz and the other Nazi death camps in Poland, the birth of Israel in 1948 became an inevitability. The Middle East would never be the same.

More broadly, the end of the war permanently altered the imperial relations that had governed much of the world for about four centuries. Churchill, who once said he had not become Prime Minister to oversee the liquidation of the British Empire, lived to see it liquidated by others. India, Malaya, Kenya and other imperial outposts demanded and won the right to govern themselves. France's General De Gaulle, who had simply been notified of D-day rather than invited to help lead the attack, imperiously reasserted French claims to rule Lebanon, West Africa and Indochina. The Dutch vainly tried to cling to Indonesia. But the days of such European empires were irrevocably ending. A Third World was struggling to be born.

These were among the long-range political consequences of D-day, but all this was largely unknown to the men who bled on Omaha Beach. D-day was first of all a battle between two great forces, and the lessons that it teaches, 40 years later, are fundamentally the lessons that all great battles teach, over and over:

That even the most carefully prepared plans often go wrong. That lucky breaks are very important. That a small number of brave and determined men can make an immense difference. That some men fight with incredible courage under fire, and that some do not. That men usually fight better in a good cause, but that some fight just as well in a bad cause. That morale is essential to victory, and that nothing improves morale so much as superior firepower. That war is cruel and wasteful but sometimes necessary. That a blundering victory is more to be valued than a heroic defeat. That might and right sometimes come to the same end.

All these things happened on June 6, 1944. *—By Otto Friedrich*

On to Paris

British infantrymen advance through a shattered Normandy village. Below, U.S. Jeeps and a cow share a deserted street in battered but liberated St.-Lô. It took scarcely a week after the closing of the Falaise gap for Allied spearheads to reach Paris.

Row on row of graves inspire reverence in visitors to the U.S. cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, above Omaha Beach, where 9,386 are buried

D-Day

Daisies from the Killing Ground

For returning vets, Normandy brings a crosscurrent of emotions

On the Atlantic coast of France, just above the pointing finger of Brittany, Normandy juts out like a green thumb into the blue-gray waters of the English Channel. At this time of year, the lush countryside is lit up with apple, pear and cherry blossoms. Along narrow country lanes, lilacs bloom around stone farmhouses and over ancient walls. Cowslips, daisies and bluets ripple through the wet pastures, interrupted regularly by thick hedgerows. Once again the surging Norman spring is laying down a floral carpet over the old killing ground.

For the Normandy veterans who come back for the first time, the experience often brings a bewildering rush of emotional crosscurrents: nostalgia for the pride and purpose they felt as young soldiers mixed with something akin to guilt for having survived when death randomly took so many friends. At Omaha Beach, where the water's edge turned red from American blood, returning veterans remember the deafening roar of battle, the smoke and confusion. All they can hear now is the lap of a low surf, the keening of seagulls and occasionally the shouts of children playing on the beach. The puzzle is how to connect the remembered knot of constant fear, the moments of horror and exhilaration in combat, with the tranquil landscape beyond the beach. It is a vision by Edvard Munch imposed on a romantic painting from *la Belle Epoque*. Some of the veterans, now mainly in their 60s, simply sit down on the beach and stare out to sea. For others, the contrast between recollection and reality, that old trick of time, brings tears to the eyes.

Samuel Fuller, 71, a film director and screenwriter who lives in Los Angeles, was 31 when he hit Omaha Beach as a corporal with the 3rd Battalion, 16th Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division, the Big Red One. A small, intense man with a cigar perpetually in his mouth, Fuller returned this month for the first time and felt a little lost. He could not find the pillbox that his unit bypassed on the way to the cliffs beyond the beach. The tall tree on the heights, designated before the landing as an assembly point, was missing. In a surprised, almost wounded tone, Fuller noted, "All the wreckage is gone." It was hard for him to believe that all those destroyed landing craft, tanks and trucks had disappeared. "Look at the parking lot and the vacation houses," said Fuller. "The place has turned into a resort!" Still, he was moved by the sight. Hoisting his nine-year-old daughter Samantha onto his shoulders, Fuller moved across the 200 yards of beach to the water line. For a moment he stood there silently, then retraced his steps of 40 years ago with his child, instead of a pack, on his back.

Like many combat veterans, Fuller rejects the idea of any glory attached to war. "We were just doing our job," he likes to say. At Omaha, nonetheless, Fuller won a Silver Star for an act that he refuses to regard as particularly heroic. Ripped by machine-gun and artillery fire as they hit the beach, the Americans lay flat in the shallow water, or painfully dragged themselves up the sand despite being wounded. Fuller was hugging the ground when an officer crawled over and ordered him to find Regimental Commander Colonel George A. Taylor and tell him that demo-

lition teams at last had cleared a path through to the cliffs. Recalls Fuller: "There were bodies and blood all over. How was I supposed to run? I had a horror of stepping on corpses. But I finally reached him 200 yds. away. Then Taylor did an amazing thing. He stood up and shouted, 'Two kinds of people are staying on this beach, the dead and those who are going to die. Now let's get the hell out of here.' And then he led us off."

In the chaos on the beach, Fuller recalls a burning ammunition truck, the driver dead at the wheel, careering toward his pinned-down unit. Some unknown soldier leaped into the cab and steered the smoldering vehicle into the sea, where it exploded. Soaking wet on the beach, Fuller remembers a cold so bitter he barely could move his fingers. The weeks of hedgerow fighting that followed have turned into a sickening blur: "You're out of control. You shoot at anything. Your eyes hurt. Your fingers hurt. You're driven by panic. We never looked at the faces of the dead, just at their feet—black boots for Germans, brown for G.I.s."

Even though Fuller made a movie called *The Big Red One* about his old division four years ago, he thinks war is impossible to convey on film because "you can't see anything in actual combat. To do it right," he says, "you'd have to blind the audience with smoke, deafen them with noise, then shoot one of them in the shoulder to scare the rest to death. That would give the idea, but then not many people would come to the theater."

Above the beach in the village of Colleville-sur-Mer, Fuller headed for an old café he remembered and asked for Joseph Brobant, the first French civilian he had seen. Brobant had come running down the road toward the advancing troops, carrying a shovel. "It's a wonder we didn't shoot him," says Fuller. "We were told to shoot at anything that moved on that road." Brobant, who had been forced into virtual slave labor by the Germans, excitedly indicated to the American infantrymen that he had just killed three of his captors with his shovel. Now 82, Brobant at first did not recognize the U.S. soldier who had teased him about his funny hat. Fuller drew a sketch of the white cap that Brobant had worn then, and the old Frenchman's eyes lit up in recognition. Shouting and laughing, the two men bear-hugged each other, overjoyed at finding a living connection to that distant day.

Making that kind of connection is more difficult for most veterans. Often they hunt for the side of a hill, a particular hedgerow or some other now inconspicuous landmark that is burned in their memories. Two Canadians found the precise corner of a pasture they remembered near Arromanches. No trace of war remained. But digging into the soft earth, the two men finally uncovered a rusted Canadian helmet. A former U.S. sergeant spent an entire day looking for the house where he had knocked out a German machine gun. When he found it, he cried,

British veterans survey the battlefield at Pointe-du-Hoc; a Sherman tank at Ste.-Mère-Eglise

"That is why I came, that is why I came." William K. Van Hoy, 62, a retired postman from Milwaukie, Ore., wanted to show his son the place near St.-Malo where he was wounded on Aug. 8, 1944.

What sticks in Van Hoy's memory even more vividly, though, is an incident during the attack on St.-Lô. "I had just lost two of my best friends," he says. "They were picked off right next to me. Then, in St.-Lô, we had just seized an artillery battery and taken all these prisoners when our own artillery started hitting all around us. I jumped into a bunker hole with two of the Germans. They marked on the side of the wall that they were 17 years old and had bicycled for three weeks from Germany to get there." Says Van Hoy, his face full of wonder, "You know I actually felt sorry for them."

For 37 out of the past 40 years, Theodore Liska, now a hotel manager in Mons, Belgium, has returned to Normandy for the anniversary of D-day. Liska, a native of Chicago, was a sergeant in the 4th Infantry. As a survivor he feels a debt to "the men who won the war, those who gave their lives. The rest of us didn't." Compared with Omaha, the landing at Utah was easy, but a mile or two inland Liska's unit began to take heavy casualties. The Germans had flooded a swath of fields nearly a mile wide. Liska and his men kept their sea-landing life jackets on for the first 24 hours, as they struggled through waist-high water. Says Liska: "We were just like sitting ducks for the Germans, sitting ducks in a pond." Human corpses became so familiar to Liska that by an odd flinch of his mind he vividly recalls instead pastures full of dead cows. "They were all lying there on their backs with their legs in the air," he says, "and I remember thinking that I never had seen a dead cow before."

By the same selective memory, veterans dwell on spontaneous displays of mercy in combat rather than on acts of brutality. Although no one wants to be reminded that both sides occasionally shot prisoners, usually because they lacked the time or means to guard them, one notorious exception is the 12th SS Panzer Division's murder of nearly 40 Canadian and British prisoners in a château garden near Bayeux. Liska's unit ran into a handful of soldiers in German uniforms from the conquered Eastern territories who had probably been pressed into service. Said Liska, "They kept saying they were Russians or Poles. The Americans didn't know who was who so they shot them."

Then there were the sudden gestures of respect for the enemy that occasionally graced the killing. Edwin Schmieger, a former parachutist with the German 3rd Parachute Division, is one of 100 or so German veterans who chose to settle in Normandy after the war, mainly because the Soviet army had overrun their former homes in Poland and Germany. A skilled carpenter who restores old furniture, Schmieger recalls coming under fire from three American tanks. "One of my comrades was wounded in both legs," recount-

ed Schmieger, "and without thinking I left my cover to put a tourniquet on his wounds. The American tanks were shooting us like rabbits, but during those minutes while I was exposed, they held their fire. Forty years later, I take my hat off to those men for the nobility of that gesture."

Roger Lantagne, a medic with the 101st Airborne, married a Frenchwoman when the war ended and retired nine years ago to Enghien-les-Bains outside Paris after more than three decades of military service in Korea, Viet Nam and Europe. Lantagne, a native of Lewiston, Me., remembers that he was tending German and American wounded in a village church not far from Utah Beach when the village was recaptured by the Germans. "A high-ranking German, accompanied by troops with automatic weapons, suddenly burst into the church. They looked at us, at the bloodstained pews and the German wounded, then turned around and went out without saying anything." Lantagne has befriended some of the German veterans of the campaign. "The Wehrmacht soldiers were ordinary guys," he says, "but the SS troops were something else. They gave no quarter."

One of the crack German units was the Panzer Lehr Division, in which Colonel Helmut Ritgen served. Ritgen, who retired eight years ago from a military career and now lives near Hannover, says that Allied firepower in the Normandy campaign was overwhelmingly greater than anything he had faced on the Eastern Front. "We felt superior to the Russians," he recalls. "At first we were even convinced that we would be able to throw the Allies back from the beaches. But just moving up toward the front in Normandy under air attack discouraged us."

For Ritgen, as for most veterans, the war is never far from mind. On a trip to Scotland last year, he visited Culloden Moor, the site of the last battle fought between the English and the Scots. Says he: "I would like to think that Normandy began the last battle between West Europeans. It was the start of a new Europe in which we have had 40 years of peace."

It is in the same spirit that the Normans recall the bloody beginning of France's liberation. Many French families were forced to house and feed the German occupiers. Resistance was dangerous and reprisals murderous, yet a minority accepted the risks out of a youthful idealism that they look back on with something close to awe. On D-day, the Germans executed 92 Frenchmen who had been held in the Caen prison on charges of helping the Allies through sabotage or intelligence activities. Among the French survivors of that time, though, there is no undercurrent of anti-German feeling today. Liberation—and time—healed their wounds.

Michel de la Vallevielle, mayor of Ste.-Marie-du-Mont, a village above Utah Beach, lost two brothers during the German invasion of France. His family farm was occupied by the Germans, who deployed a battery of 88-mm guns in the orchard. On D-day, U.S. paratroopers mistook De la Vallevielle for a German and shot him five times. A sixth bullet split his billfold. He explains his survival by citing a thought from his grandfather, a World War I veteran, who "always said that it took a man's weight in bullets to kill him." Evacuated to England for treatment of his wounds, De la Vallevielle returned home to become an honorary member of the U.S. 90th Infantry Division for the help he gave to visiting veterans and his work in improving the Utah Beach Landing Museum. Though he honors the reasons why the Allies came and fought, De la Vallevielle says, "For me who had two brothers killed and has six children, I don't want any more killing. Hardly anything remains of that tragedy, but there should be a reminder for everyone."

Another guardian of remembrance is Henri Levaufre, who was 13 years old when the invasion began. After the war, as an engineer for the government power company, Levaufre kept coming across foxholes and trenches and began noting their locations on survey maps. Soon he became the unofficial expert for G.I.s who wanted to seek out the places they had been during the fighting. He arranged for the veterans to stay with French families. Levaufre too was made an honorary member of the 90th Division. Five years ago, he set up an extraordinary reunion between members of the 90th and the men they fought in the German 6th Parachute Regiment. No military music or medals were allowed. As the hesitant German soldiers lined up on one side of the banquet hall, the American G.I.s walked across to greet them. Each German presented an American with a rose. "One of the Americans was blind," recalls Levaufre. "As he walked by, the Germans began to cry."

For the past 37 years, a committee for the landings, made up for the most part of local Norman mayors, has organized D-day anniversaries, cared for and improved two local war museums at Utah Beach and Arromanches, and generally, but not invariably, preserved decorum at the landing sites. At Chez Mimile, a café in St.-Laurent-sur-Mer, for example, a visitor can buy small white cloth bags labeled in both French and English, EASY GIFT TO TAKE HOME—SAND FROM THE LANDING BEACHES—25 FRANCS.

Though arrangements for the 40th anniversary have largely been taken over by the French government, the local committee will be back in charge next year, working to create what it hopes will become a living museum stretching 60 miles along the length of the invasion beaches. Last year about 1.5 million visitors, almost half of them Americans, stopped to gaze at the 172-acre U.S. cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, where 9,386 soldiers are buried beneath an immaculate lawn. The sheer multitude of white crosses and Stars of David, arranged in neat rows that undulate over the green expanse, forces a hushed reverence, even on buses filled with students born long after the event. Caen Mayor Jean-Marie Girault points out that a high proportion of the people who come to the D-day beaches are young. "It was a struggle against totalitarianism," he says. "And it's still going on. They ask questions about it. They want to know what happened."

The British cemeteries seem cozier, with rows of flowers and bushes along the lines of gravestones. Farther inland at Orglandes, the German cemetery is resolutely austere; its 10,152 graves are marked with blunt crosses of lavender-flecked gray granite. Few tourists come to the German cemetery, but those who do often feel compelled to write a comment in the visitors' book at the entrance. A German wrote, *"Nie wieder"* (never again), and the same message is repeated, page after page, in French and English. ***—By Frederick Painton/Normandy***

German pillbox still aims its gun out to sea near Longues

The message in a cemetery visitors' book: "Never again."

TIME 28 May 1984 Pg. 33 **D-Day**

Overpaid, Oversexed, Over Here

The Yanks came with chocolate and left with British brides

The joke in Britain 40 years ago was that only the thousands of stubby little barrage balloons, tugging at their cables above every spot that might offer a target to low-flying German planes, kept the island from sinking into the sea under the weight of men and machines massing for D-day. London was a kaleidoscope of uniforms: British, Commonwealth, French, Norwegian, Belgian, Czech, Dutch, Polish and, of course, American. So many U.S. officers worked around Grosvenor Square that G.I.s walking through the area kept their arms raised in semipermanent salute. In the southern counties, near the coast from which the armada would sail, military convoys clogged the crooked lanes of the countryside; entire fields disappeared under swarms of tanks and trucks and piles of ammunition and fuel.

Everybody was trying to figure out what to make of the roughly 1.5 million Americans who poured into England between July 1943 and D-day, introducing many Britons to such exotica as jitterbugging, Jeeps and even pitchers' mounds. When a mound was installed in Wembley Stadium for a baseball game between two U.S. service teams in early June 1944, the London *Times* informed puzzled readers that "its use adds to the speed of throw." Despite their far-reaching empire, many Britons, particularly in the smaller towns, had never seen a black man until the G.I.s arrived.

The Americans, bursting into an England gone drab and gray and plagued with shortages of everything after four years of war, were nothing if not jaunty. Residents of Somerset still remember G.I.s tossing chocolate bars and gum out of passing trucks to goggle-eyed children. According to a popular gag, so much American chewing gum had been tossed in the fountains of London's Trafalgar Square that the pigeons there were laying rubber eggs.

"Hi ya, cutie" was the universal greeting called out to females from 15 to 50. "They took all the girls," mutters one British war veteran who on the whole liked the Americans. And indeed the walls outside American barracks were lined every night with panting couples twined in a last embrace before bed check. William D. Kendall, who represented the town of Grantham, complained in Parliament that "it is unfit for a woman to walk unescorted" there because of the "unconcealed immorality" of the G.I.s. Others of course had a different opinion; some 60,000 British women eventually became American war brides.

Grouse though they did about the G.I.s being "overpaid, oversexed and over here," most Britons found the Americans to be warmhearted and valiant Allies. Thousands of English families opened their homes to American servicemen, who responded with equal generosity. Glen Brimblecombe of Ilsington in Devon recalls that as a child "I wanted a bicycle for Christmas. Very selfish, I know now, for Mum could not afford it. Mac, an American sailor from Stover Camp, whom I can still remember, appeared on Christmas morning with a brand-new Elswick bicycle."

All the while, an air of tension was building. Everyone speculated about the date of the invasion, despite the posters that exhorted CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES and ended in an execrable pun, BE LIKE DAD. KEEP MUM. An American major general blabbed at a cocktail party, "On my honor, the invasion takes place before June 13." An angry Dwight Eisenhower ordered him reduced in rank to lieutenant colonel and sent back to the U.S. As the invasion was about to begin, Leonard Dawe, a physics teacher who composed crossword puzzles for the London *Daily Telegraph*, was grilled by Scotland Yard detectives. They could not believe Dawe was unaware that such words as Utah, Omaha, Neptune and Overlord, all of which had appeared in his puzzles, were code names connected with D-day.

As D-day drew closer, English civilians saw increasingly less of the Americans, or for that matter their own soldiers. As early as December 1943, residents were cleared out of coastal villages that the invaders needed for training and sent elsewhere for a year or so. Butcher George Hannaford recalls that when he returned home to the hamlet of Torcross at the age of 13, "a cowshed and a pigsty were demolished out back of my father's shop, and apple trees were down. It was a tank park there, I think." After April 1, 1944, no unauthorized civilian travelers were allowed within ten miles of some eastern and all southern shores.

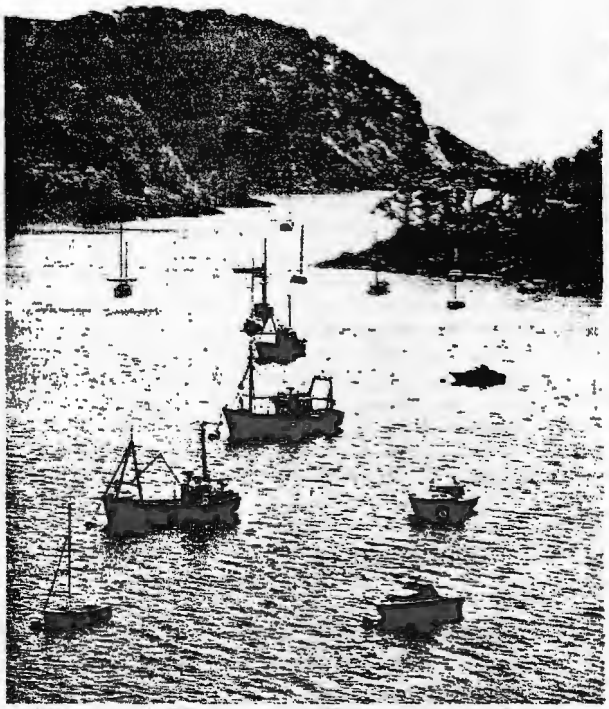
The armies then stepped up massive landing rehearsals against fortifications similar to those the Germans had erected in Normandy. Exercise Tiger, off Slapton Sands on April 28, ended in tragedy when German torpedo boats slipped into a line of landing ships and sank two. A total of 750 Americans died. Though a U.S. divisional history mentioned the incident as far back as 1948, it has attracted widespread attention only in recent weeks.

On the night of June 5, American paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division boarded C-47s at Greenham Common and embarked on their fateful flight to Normandy. Today the airbase there is the scene of bitter protests by the British peace movement against the stationing of U.S. nuclear missiles. "Oh, how short our memories are!" exclaimed the writer of a recent letter to a local weekly, taking angry issue with the protesters.

After the anticipation of the pre-invasion weeks, the great battle "seemed almost anticlimactic," recalls Kathleen Frost, who as a clerk typed up some of the D-day orders. Today the beaches, lanes and fields of southern England are quiet again, ever-present plaques the prime mementos of the frenzied activity of 40 years ago. American ex-G.I.s sometimes visit, walk those familiar streets, stay the night. But the atmosphere cannot be re-created: the girls, the buddies, the excitement, all are gone. The old soldiers take solace in memory, and in the wonderful glow of victory.

—By George J. Church.

Reported by Arthur White/London



PETER JORDAN

A different kind of fleet anchors at Dartmouth, once a D-day port

Plaques abound, but the buddies and excitement are gone.

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NORMANDY, 1944-1984

'WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN'

D-Day: They came from the sky and the sea; in the hedgerow country and the coastal towns a grateful France remembers

By Charles E. Claffey
Globe Staff

STE.-MERE-EGLISE, Normandy – In the early morning of D-Day, June 6, 1944, Robert Constans witnessed the beginning of what he and his French Resistance comrades had been working toward for four years: "I looked up and saw the paratroopers jumping. The sky was full of them. I will never forget that sight." The long-promised Allied invasion had begun.

Now, 40 years later, Constans, a short, wiry man in his early 60s, is the mayor of Ste.-Mere-Eglise, the first Norman town liberated by the Allies.

"We have not forgotten," Constans says of the American paratroopers of the US 82d Airborne Division and the Allied troops that liberated his town and France – a nation that had not fully recovered from the blood-letting of World War I when in 1939 the German Army once again massed at its borders.

Nor have Constans and his friends in the Resistance forgotten, or forgiven, the brutalities that took place during the German occupation.

On June 6, President Ronald Reagan will join Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, French President Francois Mitterrand and Canadian Premier Pierre Elliot Trudeau in ceremonies in Normandy marking the 40th anniversary of D-Day.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has not been invited, primarily because of strong pressure brought by former Resistance members who still harbor strong anti-German feelings.

Of the French government's rejection of overtures by the West German chancellor to attend the ceremonies, Constans said in an interview in his office that "It was a right decision, a good decision" to exclude Kohl.

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On May 8, the 39th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, officials and French World War II veterans gathered in front of city and town halls in places like St. Lo, Caen, Villers-Bocage and Bretteville for ceremonies marking the end of the war in Europe in 1945 with observances that included special words of gratitude for American and British forces.

At Villers-Bocage, totally destroyed during the war and now rebuilt, medals were conferred on French Army veterans, some of them partly crippled from war wounds, a few of them brushing away tears.

Like most of the towns in Normandy, Ste.-Mere-Eglise is full of reminders of the war – and there will be more in the next few weeks as this town and many others in Normandy prepare for 40th anniversary ceremonies and observances.

There are reminders such as streets named Rue Robert Murphy, after a former paratrooper of the 82d Airborne, now a Boston attorney; Gen. Ridgway Lane, a rural path that marks the site of the command post of the then commander of the 82d Division, Maj. Gen. Matthew Ridgway; Rue Capt. Rex Combs, after a company commander of the 508th Regiment, 82d Airborne; and two miles away, at LaFiere, on the Merederet River, the unmarked foxhole occupied by Brig. Gen. James M. Gavin, deputy commander of the 82d.

Then there is the church in the center of town, its foundation dating from the 11th century, the present structure from the 15th century. From the church belfry, John Steele, a paratrooper of the 82d, dangled helplessly from his parachute harness for three hours in the early morning of D-Day, playing dead while his comrades dropped all around him in the village square.

Inside the church, two stained glass windows, one of them a gift from the 82d Airborne Division, depict the landing of the American paratroopers on D-Day.

Across the street from the church, there is an airborne museum whose unpaid curator is Philippe Jutras, an American and a former Maine state legislator who has lived here since 1972 with his wife, a native of the town, who owns a local clothing store. Jutras, 68, is a retired Army warrant officer who served in Normandy.

Jutras pointed across the street to a farmer named Jules Guyot, whose wartime claim to fame is that soon after the Allies arrived in town, Guyot was somehow mistaken for a German, arrested, and interned in a prison camp in England until October 1944 when the mistake was discovered and he was repatriated to Ste.-Mere-Eglise. His only comment, then and now, on his incarceration was that "the English food was terrible."

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This part of Normandy is mostly dairy-farming country, and the land and customs have changed little over the centuries. The ancient hedgerows, in and around which German and Allied infantryman fought, still define the boundaries of Norman farms as they did a millennium ago.

About seven miles west of Ste.-Mere-Eglise is Utah Beach, the right flank of the Allied invasion force. It was at Utah that the men of the American 4th Infantry Division waded ashore on D-Day and into the gunfire of the German 716th Infantry Division, a unit made up mostly of wounded veterans, reservists and foreign "volunteers."

Utah, like most of the Allied landing beaches – American, British-Canadian and French – has its own memorial, museum and markers to commemorate the invasion.

There is no marker at German Strongpoint W5, one of its platoons commanded by 2d Lt. Arthur Jahnke, then 23, a veteran of the Russian front who had won the Knight's Cross, Germany's highest award for bravery, as a platoon leader. Wounded, he had been sent to a reserve unit in Normandy a few months before D-Day.

Jahnke's strongpoint was well-fortified: an 88-mm. gun, bunkers with flanking 50-mm. guns, a 75-mm. antitank gun and machine gun nests. It does not look like the kind of place from which it would be easy to dislodge a skilled, well-armed defender.

As the first American troops piled out of their landing craft at 6:30 a.m., the time of the first landings, Jahnke at first thought they were too far away – 500 yards – to commence firing, that they should be allowed to come to within 100 yards. But wave after wave of GIs streamed onto the beach, and Jahnke almost immediately gave the command to

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NORMANDY...Continued

open fire.

By noon of D-Day, Jahnke's platoon was decimated, the strongpoint overrun and he himself almost buried alive by a shell burst. Wounded, he was pulled legs first out of his dugout by his American captors.

Before the day was over, the first elements of the 101st Airborne that had dropped in and around Ste.-Mere-Eglise had achieved the Allied objective: to join up with the troops of the 4th Division advancing inland. And Jahnke was on a ship bound for a prisoner of war camp in England.

Driving along the nearly 60 miles of Normandy coastline that comprised the Allied invasion beaches, one is struck by the scope of Operation Overlord, the code name for the assault on Fortress Europe. The area involved in the landings approximates the coastal distance from Duxbury to Provincetown, along the inner side of Cape Cod.

The extreme ocean tides of Normandy figured prominently in the timing of the Allied invasion. At low ebb, vast stretches of beach are exposed, which made it critical for the Allies to land at the time of highest tide. At low tide in Arromanches, where the British landed, a "Mulberry" bridge (a segment of an artificial harbor) built 40 years ago stands out in bold relief in the sea – an unintentional monument to Allied engineering skills.

The cliffs and bluffs overlooking the beaches sometimes rise as high as 150 feet; at irregular intervals along the coastline German bunkers, pillboxes and American Sherman tanks often form the centerpieces of museums and memorials.

Near one of these bunkers at Omaha Beach, German Strongpoint WN62, Lance Cpl. Hein Severloh, a 21-year-old farmer from Metzingen, began firing a machine gun just after H-hour, 6:30 a.m., on D-Day. The WN62 bunker housed the observation post of the first battery of the battle-toughened 352d Infantry Division.

By noon, Severloh had fired 12,000 rounds from his over-heated machine gun. Severloh recalled later that "down on the beach, men lay dead. The white figure 1 was painted on their helmets," indicating men of the US 1st Infantry Division.

But a few hours later, American tanks were ashore and their 90-mm. guns joined a fierce naval barrage on the bunkers. The neighboring strongpoints, WN 61 and 59, had ceased to fire.

Severloh's regular ammunition had run out, and he was using tracer bullets, which gave away his position to an offshore American destroyer.

One of the American shells went straight through the aperture of the observation post bunker. Severloh's machine gun was hit and some of the fragments flew into his face. "The sights of the machine gun had been torn off."

The German officer in charge of the observation post ordered his men to withdraw, a minute or two before he was killed along with everyone else in the Strongpoint, except for Severloh and one signaller.

Along the inland and coastal roads of Normandy, numerous signs indicate the many military cemeteries in the province: American, British and German.

The American Military Cemetery is at St. Laurent-Sur-Mer, set on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach. Here, 9386 war dead are buried on a 172-acre site granted to the United States in perpetuity by France.

"Silence" and "Respect" urge the signs at the entrance to the meticulously maintained cemetery, with its precisely aligned and seemingly unending rows of white marble Latin Crosses and Stars of David.

The crosses and stars tell the soldier's name, rank, unit, home state and date of birth and death. More than 300 headstones mark the graves of "unknowns."

Most of the dead were killed in the landing operations, in the establishment of the beachhead and in the breakout from the bocage (hedgerow) country – in June, July and August of 1944. Buried side by side are a father and his son, and in 33 instances, two brothers.

At one end of the cemetery is a memorial with a semicircular colonnade with a loggia at each end and a 22-foot statue called "The Spirit of American Youth."

At the American cemetery, late in the afternoon on a Saturday in early May, a US World War II Army veteran from Watertown, Mass., and his wife walked among the graves.

Harold M. Studley, 68, of Bromfield street, then a Technician 5c with a Treadway Bridge Detachment attached to the US VII Corps, took part in the Normandy landing and later in the Battle of the Bulge and the Rhineland.

Studley, one of five brothers who served in the military during World War II, was visiting for the first time the grave of his brother, Pfc. Warren Studley, a foot soldier with the 83d Infantry Division who was killed in Carentan in Normandy on July 23, 1944.

Harold Studley learned the details of his brother's death several months after the war, he said, when a friend from Warren Studley's company came to visit him at his home. "Warren was killed because he was nosy," Harold Studley said. "He poked his head up from his foxhole to take a look around and a German sniper shot him."

Many of the German troops killed in France are buried in six German cemeteries in Normandy, which contrast sharply in mood and ambience to the brightness and simplicity of American and British cemeteries.

The biggest German cemetery is at La Cambe, near Isigny, and it is somber and forbidding. Situated off one of the main roads in Normandy, it is entered through a stone arch. Dark-gray, almost black, knight's crosses mark the graves of more than 21,000 fallen Germans.

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A flight of granite steps descends from the monument at the American cemetery to a parapet that overlooks the English Channel. About 1200 yards to the right tower vertical stone cliffs; to the left, about 2500 yards away, stretches the Pointe de la Percee. Between these two boundaries lies the four-mile stretch of "Bloody Omaha."

From this parapet, a visitor can look down and easily appreciate the superb point of vantage that the bluffs provided for German artillerymen, mortar crews and machine gunners – and the daunting aspect that they must have been presented to Allied infantrymen, some of them in combat for the first time on the day in June four decades ago that historian Samuel Eliot Morison called "... the best imitation of hell."

Next: D-Day

The month of June 1944 was a momentous time in World War II. While there seemed no doubt that Germany and Japan would eventually succumb, there was little expectation that the end – an end that would see some 53 million battle and civilian deaths, at a cost of some $1.6 trillion – was near.

And it wasn't. There were 15 months of fighting left and the main battleground, by decision of the Allied Combined Chiefs of Staff, was to be Adolf Hitler's Fortress Europe.

On Wednesday, June 6, The Globe series on the war will continue with a 4-page report on the way it was on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when the Allies took the fight to Hitler on the beaches of Normandy.

Says retired Brig. Gen. James M. Gavin, assistant division commander of the 82d Airborne Division on D-Day: "We were sure that most of us would not survive. But here it is 40 years later, and most of us did survive. On June 6 some of us are going back to pay tribute to the memory of those who did not make it. We who fought the Battle of Normandy knew it had to be fought – and won."

NEW YORK POST 28 May 1984 Pg. 13

D-DAY: The Great Invasion

STARTS TODAY: 40th anniversary salute to Allied heroes

By MARTIN BURDEN

THE WEEK of Memorial Day is a time to pay tribute to the brave American soldiers who have given their lives to preserve our precious freedom. And this is a week to recall, on the eve of its 40th anniversary, one of the great dates in history: June 6, 1944 — D-Day, when American, British and Canadian forces made their long-awaited assault on the Hitler empire, storming the Nazi-held French coast at Normandy. The largest amphibious invasion ever attempted, it was the biggest military gamble of all time. Beginning tomorrow, read a stirring recreation of the epic crusade, drawn from two acclaimed books — "Six Armies in Normandy" by John Keegan, and "Overlord" by Max Hastings.

IT WAS, one man recalled years later, "a hell of a day to go for a boat ride — wet and windy, and I got seasick."

It was not the most flowery, poetic way to remember what many have described since as a crusade — not a mission of vengeance, but a crusade for freedom.

But if it was a crusade it was like none anybody had ever seen before, an armed host almost 3 million strong, in a vast flotilla under a shielding curtain of thousands of aircraft. It began under the most inauspicious of circumstances — the weather was bad, the target was reputed to be impregnable, the prospects were not what any prudent betting man would choose.

But General Eisenhower said, "Let's go," and June 6, 1944 — D-Day — became a memorable date in American and world history.

There will be pilgrimages next week by groups of veterans — graying and balding ex-Fourth Division dogfaces looking at the memorials and the remains of German pillboxes on Utah Beach, one-time GIs of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions doing the same at Omaha Beach, former Rangers looking up at the forbidding heights of Pointe-du-Hoc and saying, wonderingly — in the words of a Bill Mauldin cartoon about another beachhead — "My God, there they were and here we were!" . . . visiting the immaculately kept cemeteries, searching out names, standing silently, with thoughts 40 years old.

Today there are generations of Americans to whom D-Day is a faded phrase, something they may have read about, or seen in films — but mostly as fiction. The thought that men actually went to foreign lands, trained to face death — and died — in amphibious landings is almost an abstract idea to some.

Under the circumstances, responsibility came suddenly, and with it maturity. Teenagers whose most serious thought had been how to borrow a car for a Saturday night date, suddenly were in command of tanks and fighter aircraft and bombers. (At an Air Force base a young man who was a first-rate A-26 pilot had never learned to drive a car). A soldier, who had been coddled all his life until the Army tapped him, prepared to leap from a training tower and told a buddy, "If my mother knew what I was doing, she'd kill me."

When the war was new, civilians as well as the neophyte soldiers learned a whole new set of military names and identifications and acronyms. An officer-candidate at Fort Knox, the Armored Force center, wrote home that he was driving a General Sherman around. His mother wrote back that she had very proudly told the neighbors that of all the boys in camp, her son was chosen to drive a general. He never had the heart to tell her General Sherman was an ugly 30-ton tank.

Two years later Americans had gained bloody experience in places from Kasserine to Anzio. The supply lines were full, as factories turned out everything from combat boots to B-17s. The war had turned a corner, and the Allies were readying the knockout punch. The first move in throwing that punch was D-Day.

Forty years is a long time, and there are probably many who are now unaware that in 1944 Europe was a continent enslaved, with Nazi troops everywhere, and, except for bands of guerrillas, little hope anywhere.

Allied troops under Gen. Mark Clark had been scrambling up the mountainous Italian boot — "the forgotten campaign," Fifth Army brass grumbled — and had finally, on June 4, taken Rome. "Now people will be reading about us!" a soldier exulted.

But two days later D-Day grabbed headlines around the world and the Italian campaign was a footnote.

And it was a feat worth noting, this incredible undertaking, this unbelievable piece of logistics and heroism and tactical and strategic ingenuity.

And, in the end, it was dependent not alone on men and machinery — and all that could go wrong there — but also on the vagaries of wind and weather and tide and a thousand imponderables.

If it became another Dunkirk, of immensely more vast proportions, would the Allies ever have the will to start all over again? Or would that seal the final doom of democracy in Europe, with Hitler and the Nazis the masters of it all?

And after that?

It was a portentous moment when General Eisenhower said "Let's go."

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STARTS TODAY: 40th anniversary

AIR DROP

THE Allied invasion of Normandy began in the early morning hours of June 6, 1944, with a terrifying and gallant parachute assault behind Nazi lines. The night of horror and heroism is reconstructed in this gripping excerpt from the acclaimed book "Six Armies in Normandy," by historian JOHN KEEGAN.

BY 10:15 p.m. on June 5, the darkness of the night began to close over the long lines of C-47 aircraft, 822 of them, at bases in the middle and south of England. Towards the men of the U.S. 101st Airborne caught the sounds of the engines, the whine of the starter winding up; a few throaty coughs as the engine caught and finally roared into a full crescendo.

Between 1:15 and 2 a.m. on June 6, after half an hour flown at 500 feet to escape detection by German radar and a shorter period at 1500 feet to establish landfall, the troop carriers dropped to 700 feet to make their approach runs. Some aboard had slept the trip away, helped by the airsickness pills, many had smoked it through, the ends of their cigarets glowing white in the dim light.

Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, commander of the 82d Airborne, watched the men in his C-47; it was part of the parachuting spirit that generals and privates jumped together. "The men sat quietly, deep in their own thoughts," one man remembers. "They joked a little and broke, now and and then, into ribald laughter. Nervousness and tension, and the cold that blasted through the open door, had its effect upon us all."

He watched "glints of yellow flame from the German anti-aircraft guns on the Channel Islands. . .curiously and without fear, as a high-flying duck may watch a hunter, knowing that we were too high and too far away for their fire to reach us." Others lifted the little black curtains which covered the windows to share the view, but he looked "straight across the aisle through the doorless exit." And suddenly he saw land.

And then the view was extinguished by a turbulent mass of clouds. This bank of cloud, unpredicted by the meteorologists, stood across the approach routes of both the 82d and the 101st.

Pilots instinctively separated, horizontally and vertically, so that the tight V's dissolved and "when after hours (actually seconds or minutes) we came out," recalled Lt. Harold Young of the 326th Parachute Engineers, "we were all alone. I remember my amazement. Where had all those C-47s gone?"

Other planes emerged from the cloud to find themselves not alone, but in close proximity to other aircraft and under fire from German light and medium anti-aircraft guns positioned immediately under the flight path.

Many of the aircraft were hit, numbers of the parachutists wounded in the cabins and most "sticks" (planeloads) of men called to jump either while their aircraft was taking evasive action or when they were short or beyond their assigned dropping point.

When the order to jump came, the whole stick would leave the plane at gymnastic speed, emptying it in less than 10 seconds.

If things went amiss, this smooth sequence could be severely disjointed. Sgt. Louis E. Truax, of the 1st Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry, described his jump:

"The front men were jumping. The first 12 got out pretty close together. I was running down the aisle. Suddenly the plane was hit in the left wing by flak. The wing went straight up. My left shoulder crashed into a window. With ammo, a 1903 Springfield rifle, 12 grenade launcher rounds, 2 cans of blood plasma, 2 cans of distilled water, gas mask, helmet, K rations I must have weighed 225-250 pounds; stripped I weighed 130. I was surprised the window didn't break.

"The pilot was fighting to right the plane. When he succeeded, I was appalled at the view which greeted me — I was the only one standing. Four men lay in a tangled heap on the floor. I realized it was almost impossible for them to stand up with their equipment loads.

Incredibly in that highly charged atmosphere, and despite the sheer physical difficulty of standing firm in the stampede for the door, only a few men "refused." In all, seven men preferred to face the savage disciplinary consequences and total social ignominy of remaining with the airplane to stepping into the darkness of the Normandy night.

But 13,000 others, whether over their drop zones or not, whether over dry land or flooded valleys, whether over the target Cotentin peninsula or already beyond its wave-lapped coast, took their courage in their hands and followed their leaders out into the tempest of their aircraft's slipstream. Not even the most anxious of parachutists could have anticipated the problems which plagued the troops as soon as they reached French soil.

Medicine could do nothing for those injured in the way parachutists feared most — by landing with a malfunctioning or unfurled chute. A considerable number reported being dropped so low that their parachute scarcely had time to deploy or of seeing others whose canopies had not deployed at all. Seventeen men hit the ground before their chutes had time to open.

Some sticks fell to their deaths at sea because their pilots gave them the green light when they had already crossed the east coast of the peninsula. Many who landed on the Cotentin drowned all the same, for the floods of the Douve and the Merderet Rivers, undetected on the aerial photographs and invisible from the flight path, stood two and three feet deep among the reeds and ripe hay of the water meadows. A man making the regulation sideways roll on landing finished beneath the surface and, if he could not free himself on one lungful of air from his imprisoning harness, breathed water and died.

All along the valleys of the two little rivers, other parachutists were fighting their own little battles with the unexpected enemy.

Hugh Pritchard, a radio operator with a set in his leg bag, fell into water with

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AIR DROP...Cont'd

140 pounds of equipment securely fastened to his body. "The terror of that first night," he recalled in 1967, "remains so vivid even today that sometimes I wake up in a cold sweat and nearly jump out of bed."

Other jumpers had fallen into trees, into hedges, on to the anti-glider poles sown across the flatter fields and known to the German defenders as "Rommel's asparagus." One — later to be made famous in a scene from *The Longest Day* — landed on the steeple of the church at Ste. Mere-Eglise.

But whatever their landing place, those who had avoided the water had reason to be grateful even though a great number were injured on impact. In one party of 100 men, a quarter had sprains or breaks. Some were far too seriously hurt to move. Others unintentionally wounded themselves in their haste to free themselves from their harnesses, cutting their fingers or slashing through their clothes into flesh.

But the sensation which afflicted all, hurt or whole, senior officer or junior private, was that of intense and unnerving loneliness.

A few, who had studied their maps particularly hard and had had the luck to be dropped in the right place, could tell where they were. The majority were lost, lonely and afraid.

By first light a dozen parties had been collected, but in nothing like the strengths prescribed and most often in the wrong spot. In each division, over 3000 soldiers were either lost or already dead. Only one battalion had dropped both concentrated and in its planned zone.

An obvious thought was to seek directions from the inhabitants. But few French people in that densely garrisoned countryside were willing to fall for what might have been a Gestapo ruse.

Fortunately, until light broke, the Germans on the Cotentin showed no more willingness than the civilian inhabitants to leave the security of their known positions.

And so, in the precious hiatus between landing and daylight, half a dozen parties of Americans were given the time, leadership and direction to gather themselves and their weapons and to move out on what would prove to be the vital missions of the operation.

Throughout the days which followed until long afterwards, the lost and scattered parachutists of both divisions would continue to find their way back to the solidifying perimeter. One group, 33 strong was adrift 14 days before coming in, and lost 29 members in daily skirmishes while coming in; another was lost for 17 days; some groups, dropped as much as 25 miles south of their assembly points, deep within enemy-held Normandy, were never heard of again.

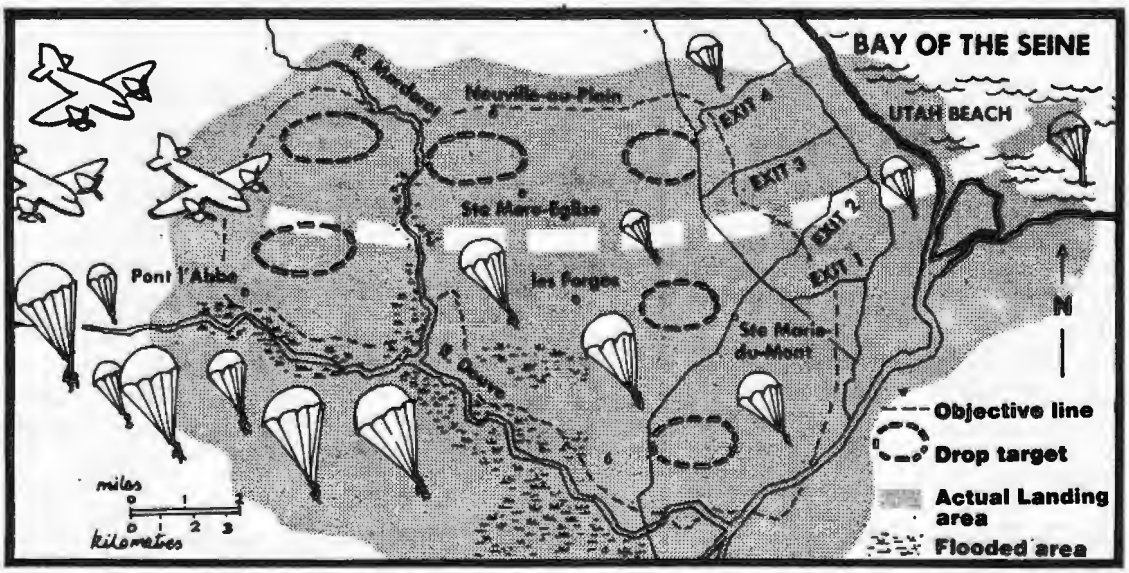
But for all its wastefulness, the airborne descent on the margin of the Utah Beach was a success. The very extent of its scatter, for all that it was unintended, had multiplied the effect of confusion in the German high command, preventing it from offering any organized riposte.

It was appropriate and characteristic that the effect should have been produced by Americans. Like pioneers in an unknown land, ignorant of its language and landmarks, uncertain of what danger the next thicket or stream-bottom might hold, confident only in themselves and their mastery of the weapons in their hands, the best and bravest among them had stifled their fears, marched forth and planted the roots of settlement in the soil that was there for the taking.

Whether or not it might be held would turn on the strength and resolution of those who came later, on D-Day, on the fighting skills of the shipborne divisions who debarked in the wake of the airborne landings. It was they who must fight the battle of the beachhead.

Post map by Jane Eldershaw

Paratroopers were supposed to hit target ovals, but most missed and landed all over the shaded area. Many drowned when planes overshot coast and dumped crews into bay. Others drowned along the Merderet and Douve rivers. Exits from Utah Beach were roads to be secured for use by the invasion troops.



NEW YORK POST 30 May 1984 Pg. 27

SCRAMBLING FOR SAFETY BENEATH A 'FOG OF WAR'

Part 3: Brave Yanks gain first toe-hold on Utah Beach

By night, brave paratroopers had dropped blindly into occupied France. Then, at dawn, swarms of Allied soldiers began their bloody landings on the beaches of Normandy. Their heroic deeds are detailed in "Overlord," the new book by noted historian MAX HASTINGS.

BEFORE dawn, the invasion coast was lit by flares and flashes as the naval guns pounded the defenses. Explosions of every hue rippled up and down the shoreline as hundreds of launches and landing craft scuttled amid the dim silhouettes of the battleships and cruisers a few miles out at sea.

No man who saw it ever forgot either the spectacle of the vast invasion fleet crowding the Channel at first light on the morning of D-Day, or the roar of the guns rolling across the sea, or the tearing rasp of the rocket batteries firing over the heads of the men in the landing craft.

Nine battleships, 23 cruisers, 104 destroyers and 71 corvettes dominated the 6483-strong assembly of converted liners, merchantmen and tank landing craft now shaking out into their positions a few miles offshore. The 4000 landing ships of all sizes would carry the troops ashore.

Alongside the transports, overburdened men clambered clumsily down the scrambling nets into the pitching assault craft below. For many, this was among the most alarming experiences of the day. Thousands of men tossing upon the swell strained to make their eyes focus through binoculars upon the coastline ahead.

Capt. Henry Bruce of the Royal Artillery wrote in his notebook: "The villages of La Breche and Lion-sur-Mer are smothered with bursts, and enormous dirty clouds of smoke and brick dust rise from the target area and drift out to sea, completely obscuring our target for a time and enveloping many craft in a veritable 'fog of war.' "

Gunnery observation was to be one of the least satisfactory aspects of the landings, with scores of ships compelled to waste ammunition on harassing objectives selected from the map, for lack of targets pinpointed by forward observers.

As the first waves of landing craft headed for the shore, the guns lifted their barrage precisely according to the time schedule. As a result, with so many craft running many minutes late, the German defenses enjoyed a precious pause before the first infantry hit the beaches.

The current off Utah Beach swept the American landing craft 2000 yards south of the area designated by the plan but 28 of the 32 amphibious DD tanks launched reached the sands. At 6:30 a.m., the three regimental combat teams of 4th Division began to come ashore under very light enemy fire.

The Germans had thought it most unlikely that Allied troops would land immediately in front of the wide flooded areas beyond the beach. The navigational error caused by the current had brought the men of 4th Division into the most lightly defended sector of the entire Normandy front.

As the forward infantry mopped up beach defenses, the engineers began to blow up beach obstacles under only sporadic artillery fire. Vehicles and follow-up units poured in as the Americans discovered one undefended beach exit, and the 101st Airborne secured four others at the western end. Most of the lone defending regiment of the German 709th Division surrendered as soon as the Americans came to close quarters with them.

Pvt. Lindley Higgins waded through three feet of water to the shore in a manner that made his own invasion seem more farcical than lethal. He and other men of the 12th Regiment could hear only distant firing, but suddenly they were ordered to lie down among the organized chaos of vehicles and stores on the sand: "They're sending in artillery!" somebody shouted.

As he hit the ground, Higgins felt himself being squeezed in half by an agonizing pressure at his waist. He yelled: "Aid man!" Then he saw that he had accidentally hit the release of his life jacket, which was inflating.

Furious and embarrassed, he pulled his bayonet off his rifle and hacked the life jacket into submission. Then, in long straggling files, his company began to move inland.

Almost all the Americans' difficulties on Utah that day began as they left the beach. The units dispatched northwards to secure the area where the 4th Division would have landed, but for the diversion caused by the current, ran into strong resistance.

When 12th Regiment and other forces striking inland clambered over the high, sandy bank looking out over the sea and began to plunge through the flat, flooded fields behind the dunes, their movement became agonizingly slow.

Capt. John McGirr of the 65th Armored Field Artillery was under orders to advance with the leading elements inland, and commence acting with the 101st Airborne as a forward observer at the earliest opportunity.

Instead, he found himself lying behind the sea wall for more than two hours while waiting for his infantry unit to move off; the monotony was relieved only by a fire in an ammunition truck hit by a stray shell which he helped to fight. The guns of his battery were already coming ashore before McGirr was off the beach.

To Higgins and his companions of Company L, struggling under their impossibly heavy loads of weapons and equipment, the swamps seemed endless.

The men waded between the white tapes laid ahead of them by the engineers, rifles held high above their heads to keep dry. Higgins was carrying an entire carton of Lucky Strikes in his invasion jacket, but by evening the only smoke he managed to salvage was in the pack in his helmet.

All along the line, time was already slipping. The chronic problem was to

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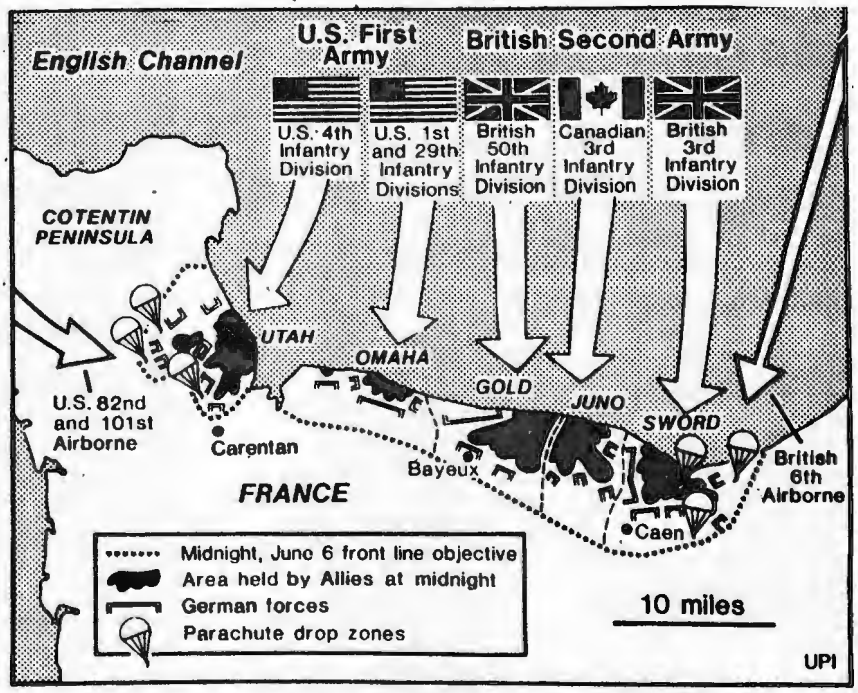
SCRAMBLING FOR SAFETY... Continued

maintain momentum. Yet the landing of 23,000 men on Utah, at a cost of only 197 casualties on the first day, was an almost miraculous piece of good fortune and good judgment.

It seemed all the more so in contrast with the events that were unfolding that morning a few miles to the east — at Omaha Beach.



Map depicts first-day objectives of the U.S., British and Canadian forces in their assault on the Normandy beaches.

It was 'pretty terrifying'

GEORGE Koskimaki, 62, was one of the first Americans to land in Normandy with 101st Airborne.

" We parachuted into France at 1:20 a.m. in the morning onto Utah beach," he recalls.

"When you parachute for 450 feet those 45 seconds it takes to touch ground feels like the longest time, especially with the Germans shooting those tracers at you.

"I jumped along with [Gen.] Maxwell Taylor. I was his radio man. There were 45 planes in my group; three were downed.

"There were 16 men on my mission. I was No. 5. The fourth died almost instantly, from the injuries he sustained when he landed.

"When we landed we were separated from one another. I didn't meet up with anyone until an hour later. Being all alone was pretty terrifying.

"Many of us landed without guns — our only weapons were grenades and knives. Then we encountered our first Germans; they were right on the other side of the hedge. We hit the dirt, and not a minute too soon. Anyone with a protruding butt would have been finished."

George Koskimaki in the uniform of the 101st Airborne (left) and today.

Today George Koskimaki, a high school biology teacher for 30 years, serves as an analyst for a Michigan utility company.

— SUSAN FRIEDLAND

NEW YORK POST 31 May 1984 Pg. 35

ENEMY GUNS BLAST AWAY AS YANKS CRAWL ASHORE

Part 4: Assault troops pinned down on Omaha Beach

The seas were angry and the enemy fire relentless as two divisions of brave Americans struggled ashore at the beach code-named "Omaha." Their heroism is described in today's excerpt of "Overlord" by historian MAX HASTINGS.

WHILE the 4th Division was streaming ashore at Utah Beach, on nearby Omaha beach, where two-thirds of the entire American D-Day effort was concentrated, the 1st and 29th Divisions were enduring 10 times as many losses as the 4th's, and very many times their fear and confusion.

Whipped by a 10-knot northwesterly wind, the seas swamped at least 10 landing craft during the run-in, drowning many of their infantry. The attempt to land artillery failed disastrously, and in all 26 guns from elements of five regiments were lost.

The supporting rocket ships opened fire at extreme range from the shore, and most of their projectiles fell short, some landing among the assault craft. Under the impact of the waves, the flimsy canvas walls on most of the amphibious Sherman tanks collapsed immediately.

A special kind of sacrificial heroism was demanded of the tank crews that morning when, by a serious error of judgment, 32 were launched 6000 yards from the beach. Each one, as it dropped off the ramp of the landing craft, plunged like a stone to the bottom of the sea, leaving pitifully few survivors struggling in the swell.

Most of the young Americans plunging into the surf had been crouched in their landing craft for some three hours, having been transferred from the transports 12 miles out from the beach rather than the seven miles the British decided upon.

Many had quickly thrown up their breakfasts, and then crouched miserably in the bucketing boats, drenched in spray, paddling in vomit, as darkness gave way to the first light of dawn.

Each man was grotesquely loaded with gas mask, grenades, half-pound blocks of TNT, pole or satchel charges, two bandoliers of rifle ammunition, rations and waterbottle — 68 pounds in total.

Now, in an instant, they were compelled to rouse themselves from the cramped, crowded stagnation of the landing craft and stumble forward into the hail of machine-gun and mortar fire from the German defenses, which killed and wounded many before they even reached dry ground.

Others, still groggy with seasickness, their clothes and equipment stiff and matted with salt, desperately sought cover among the beach obstacles or lay paralyzed amid the harvest of wreckage that quickly gathered on the shoreline.

Early in the assault the beach was clogged with grounded and damaged landing craft, some hulks being swept broadside onto the German obstacles to create a logjam which the next wave could not pass.

A flamethrower operator on one vessel suffered a direct hit on his weapon: the explosion catapulted his dying body into the sea, spewing blazing fuel over the decks. The landing craft caught fire and burnt for the next 18 hours, amid constant detonations from its 20 mm ammunition.

The D-Day plan demanded that 270 specially-trained demolition men would follow the lead infantry onto the beach and immediately begin to blow the German obstacles, clearing the way for the great rolling succession of follow-up units before the tide covered the mines.

An additional 25,000 men and 4000 vehicles were due on Omaha with the second tide of the day. However, under the intense fire which killed or wounded more than 40 percent of the engineers, only a handful of obstacles were exploded that morning.

The path to the beach was forced open principally by the hulls of landing craft that rammed obstacles by accident or intent, often triggering the mines and adding more hulks to the debris on the waterline. Of 16 armored bulldozers sent ashore, only six arrived and three of these were quickly destroyed.

Among the infantry, command quickly approached collapse. Three-quarters of the 116th Regiment's radio sets were destroyed or rendered unworkable, and the unit's forward headquarters was effectively wiped out by a direct hit.

Many men were confused to discover that they had been landed far from the sector for which they had been briefed and trained. Americans lay prone in the shallow water seeking cover, or dragged themselves painfully up the sand with wounds suffered before they were even out of the landing craft.

Hundreds huddled beneath the sea wall at the head of the beach, seizing the only shelter Omaha offered that day, although some companies' survivors took 45 minutes to struggle even that far from the waterline. Hundreds of men were already dying or dead — there would be more than 2000 casualties on the beach that day.

Among those who survived the bloody landing at Omaha, an overwhelming paralysis set in.

Much of what takes place on every battlefield is decided by example, men being driven to act in noble or ignoble fashion by the behavior of those around them. On Omaha that morning, the inexperience of many American junior leaders made itself felt.

The confused nature of the landings, with men landing by half-platoons often many yards from the boats carrying their own officers and comrades, destroyed unit cohesion. To the great majority of infantrymen looking for an example to follow out of the apparent collapse of purpose on Omaha that morning, it seemed most prudent merely to seek what shelter they could, and cling to it.

Ranger Mike Rehm of C Company, 5th Battalion, landed in Dog Green sector shortly after H-Hour with 10 men, two of whom were killed and three wounded in the first 100 yards between the sea and the base of the hill.

Rehm huddled for shelter behind a knocked-out Sherman tank, finding himself beside a Ranger whom he did not recognize, smoking a cigar. Suddenly

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ENEMY GUNS...Continued

they discovered that the tank was not knocked out, for its engine sprang into life and it began to move.

The two men ran hastily towards the sea wall. After a few paces Rehm glanced around and saw that his companion lay covered in blood from the waist down. He reached the wall alone. There he lay through the two hours which followed, amidst a huddle of infantry and other Rangers representing almost every unit on the beach that morning.

★ ★ ★

THREE companies of Rangers had lain offshore awaiting a signal from their commanding officer, Colonel Rudder, to land and advance through the positions that were to be taken by a landing force at Pointe du Hoc. But the men tossing in the boats had heard nothing.

They were obliged to assume that the Pointe du Hoc landing had failed and were ordered in to the western flank of Omaha beach.

One landing craft struck a mine as it approached, blowing off the door of the craft, killing the seaman manning it and stunning the Ranger platoon commander. His 34 men floundered out of the sinking vessel and struck out for the shore.

The next platoon commander, Lt. Brice, waded onto the beach and turned to shout "Let's go!" to his men before falling dead in front of them.

Meanwhile A Company's craft had grounded 75 yards offshore, and many of its men died in the water under machinegun fire.

When Gerard Rotthof's mother heard that her son was to become a radioman, she said: "Well at least he won't have to carry a rifle any more." But now Rotthof lay trapped on the beach beneath the weight of his 60-pound SCR 284 set, wounded by mortar fragments in the face and back.

He received the Last Rites twice, but somehow survived terrible internal injuries. Only 35 men of A Company and 27 from B of the 2nd Rangers reached the sea wall, out of 130 who launched from transports before dawn.

'You didn't have time to be scared'

John Finke (left) as a 16th Infantry Regiment company commander, and (right) today, as a retired lieutenant colonel.

JOHN Finke of New Jersey was company commander of Company F of the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division, a converted rifle company that served as one of first beach-assault units on Omaha Beach.

"Things were pretty rugged here. There were a lot of people killed. I landed with my company at 6:30 a.m. By noon I was wounded by a steel fragment that grazed my right leg and elbow. That put me out of commission for two months.

"I had six officers under me. During the first day, four were killed and two were wounded. My first sergeant had to lead the men until replacement officers arrived.

"More than half the men became casualties. But you didn't have time to be scared. You just had to keep on going. On the beach, we were just moving targets for the Germans."

Finke, 73, retired as a lieutenant colonel from the army in 1964, after 28 years of service.

NEW YORK POST 1 June 1984 Pg. 39

COURAGE & CHAOS ON OMAHA BEACH

Part 5: It'll be a long swim home, thought one desperate GI

DESPITE incredible acts of bravery amidst the chaos of Omaha Beach, Gen. Omar Bradley at one point considered halting the assault. Historian MAX HASTINGS recounts those desperate hours in this excerpt from his book, "Overlord."

ABOUT 200 yards out from Omaha Beach, Lt. Sid Salomon and I Platoon of C Company still supposed that the whole thing looked a pushover: not a single shell or small-arms round had come close to them. Then the ramp dropped and they were exposed to the full fury of the defenses.

An immensely tall 31-year-old graduate of New York University who enlisted in March 1942, Salomon had ordered his men to go all-out for the cliff base, under no circumstances pausing for a casualty.

Yet within seconds one of his sergeants, Oliver Reed, was hit and fell beneath the ramp. Salomon could not stop himself from seizing the wounded man and dragging him through the waist-high water to the beach. Some of the platoon overtook him as he floundered, and now he passed four already dead from a mortar burst.

He himself fell, hit in the shoulder. Convinced the he was finished, he called to his platoon sergeant, Bob Kennedy. Reaching into his field jacket, he said: "I'm dead. Take the maps."

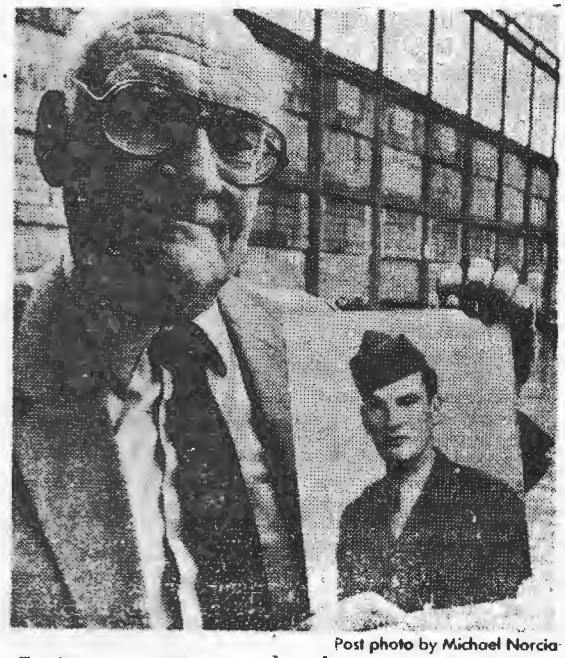
But then a machine-gun began to kick up sand in front of them, and Salomon found that he was not only alive, but could run. At the base of the cliff he counted nine survivors of his platoon, out of 30 who left the landing craft.

His old sergeant, who had left the platoon on promotion, had insisted upon joining them for the assault. Salomon had placed him last out of the boat to give him the best chance of making it. But Sgt. Goales was already among the dead. All told, some two-thirds of the company were casualties.

It was a tribute to the quality of the Rangers that despite losses on a scale that stopped many infantry units in their tracks on Omaha that morning, the survivors of C Company pressed on to climb the cliffs west of the beach with bayonets and toggle ropes, clearing German positions one by one in a succession of fierce close-quarter actions with tommy guns and phosphorus grenades.

Sgt. Julius Belcher charged headlong against one pillbox, tossed in a grenade and then shot down the garrison as they staggered out of the entrance.

In their own area, they found later that they had killed some 60 Germans on June 6. Yet they lacked the strength and the heavy weapons to press on westwards towards Pointe du Hoc. Toward the end of morning, Salomon stood in a captured German position, gazing down on the chaos below. "I was of the opinion that the invasion had been a failure," he said laconically. He reflected that it was going to be a long swim home.



Post photo by Michael Norcia

Ex-Ranger Herbert Epstein holds 1944 photo of himself at West Side pier from where he shipped out to England and, finally, the Normandy invasion.

★ ★ ★

THE reports that reached V Corps and Gen. Omar Bradley from Omaha that morning were not merely gloomy, but at times almost panic-stricken.

Bradley's personal aide and Admiral D.P. Kirk's gunnery officer cruised close inshore aboard a PT Boat and returned soaked and grimy. Bradley considered halting all landings on the eastern beach and diverting the follow-up waves to Utah.

A monstrous traffic jam had developed off the beach. By a serious flaw in the timetable, soft-skinned vehicles were beginning to arrive to offload in the middle of the battle.

Among many naval crews who displayed exemplary courage, there were others whose lack of experience and determination magnified the confusion. The sailors manning a huge rhino raft loaded with vehicles simply abandoned it, 700 yards out, and the drivers and cargo drifted out of control until the rising tide brought them ashore.

The Rangers had developed an early skepticism about naval efficiency when the officer in charge of one of their landing craft rammed a breakwater before getting out of his English harbor, and the skipper of another spent the cross-Channel voyage prostrate with sea-sickness.

Now, one group of Rangers found themselves left to bring their landing craft in to the beach unaided. Its crew simply took to their dinghy and deserted them.

In contrast to these episodes, the sailors manning two landing craft with immense courage rammed the beach obstacles head-on, and remained in position using every gun to support the infantry in their plight.

★ ★ ★

LT.-COL. John Williamson, commanding the 2d/18th Infantry of the 1st Division, led his men into their landing craft soon after 8 a.m., more than an hour late.

After some forceful urging from Williamson, the craft began their run-in. Then he saw the incredible tangle of soldiers and machines that was stalling the entire operation.

Rangers silence German artillery

BILL Petty, a sergeant with the F Company of the 2d Ranger Battalion, recalls the Rangers' assault on Pointe du Hoc.

"The boats were off course and that put us 45 minutes behind schedule. That mistake cost us many casualties.

"The cliffs were 120 feet high, and the Germans were shooting at us all the way up.

"Our assignment was to knock out the German guns. There were six guns up there and they were awesome. The barrels were 60 feet long and a foot thick. They had a range of 14 miles which would have given the Germans command of both Utah and Omaha beach.

"First Sgt. Leonard Lomell and Staff Sgt. Jack E. Kahn discovered the guns, and I helped capture 17 German gunners.

"Around midnight the Germans began to reattack us. I guess they didn't realize their guns were out of commission.

"They actually tried to jump into our ditches. Seven Germans jumped us in our foxhole. I yelled for everyone to hit the dirt, and I blasted the Germans with my automatic rifle.

"But from then on, the Germans were running all over us. There were about 700 Germans to 60 of us.

"We only started out with 295 men and more than half were killed or wounded. Another 80 to 100 were holding the top of the cliff.

"I stayed behind to give covering fire as the troops retreated. I didn't get back till daylight. During that time I killed more than 30 Germans.

"We waited on the cliff for the infantry to fight their way to us. They didn't arrive until noon on June 9."

Today, Petty, 63, a social worker, is head of an upstate summer camp for underprivileged kids. He plans to attend next week's 40th anniversary gathering in Normandy.

— SUSAN FRIEDLAND

A failure to communicate leaves Yanks surrounded

HERBERT Epstein, an intelligence sergeant with the 5th Ranger Battalion, landed on Omaha Beach at 8 a.m. on D-Day.

The 2d and 5th Rangers had a mission — to knock out six German 155mm guns on Pointe du Hoc.

"We had rehearsed these maneuvers for several months in Scotland and England, actually going out in assault boats, landing on the beach, and practicing under supporting mortar fire. There were 35 casualties just in the practice stages.

"We had the maneuvers down pat. We knew many of the pillbox locations and our naval and air bombardment was effective.

"But there was one thing we didn't count on and intelligence didn't uncover. There was an additional German training unit, nearly 10,000 men, practicing in the area.

"We managed to knock many Germans out of their positions, but then, these new Germans came in, ready to assume their positions.

"Three companies of the 2d Ranger unit were sent out first to try and scale the sheer cliff leading to Pointe du Hoc. The other three companies of the 2d Battalion, and the entire 5th Battalion were supposed to follow after they radioed us.

"But we never heard from them, so we went to the alternate landing, Vierville-sur-Mer, planning to come into Pointe du Hoc the back way.

"Well, when we landed we were virtually surrounded by Germans. It took us two days of intense fighting to make it back to Pointe du Hoc, and join up with the other Rangers.

"Then, together, we proceeded to push on to our next destination — Grandcamp."

Epstein, now 61, lives in Oceanside, L.I. and works an an architect in New York City.

NEXT: THE TIDE BEGINS TO TURN

NEW YORK POST 2 June 1984 Pg. 17

BLOODY FIGHTING TURNS THE TIDE ON BEACHHEAD

Last part: Heroism and grit force breakout from Omaha

The determined leadership and heroic fighting that broke the German resistance on Omaha Beach and established the Allies' foothold on the continent is described in this final excerpt from "Overlord" by noted historian MAX HASTINGS.

Wounded GIs await evacuation from Normandy beach.

ALTHOUGH the German army in Normandy possessed the capability to maul the American landing on Omaha seriously, to impede and to disorganize it, it lacked the power to halt it absolutely.

Despite the near total destruction of the first wave of invaders landing on the western flank below Vierville, despite the casualties and the terror inflicted upon thousands of green troops, a great many Americans survived to reach the sea wall alive — enough, finally, to swamp the vastly outnumbered German defenders.

The toeholds pried out of the heights above the beach on D-Day by a few brave men of the Rangers, and the 1st and 29th Divisions could never normally have been held against the quick local counterattacks at which the German army excelled. But such movements did not develop.

Like a trickling stream slipping between pebbles, a handful of courageous strongpoints covered the beach exits and forced a path for the American army off Omaha beach.

Brigadier Gen. Norman Cota and his 29th Division command group reached the beach at 7:30 a.m. with the 116th Regiment's headquarters. The general began to move among the bewildered tangle of infantrymen, Rangers, naval beach maintenance parties and gunner forward observers.

He saw one man who attempted to move up the hill shot down. The soldier lay in front of the American positions crying: "Medico, I'm hit!" repeatedly for several minutes. Then he moaned "Mama" and cried for a few moments before he died.

Two of the headquarters group were killed within three feet of Cota when he established his first commany post, while his signaller was hurled 20 feet up the bluff by a blast. But the fiery, inexhaustible brigadier began pushing officers, urging men, seeking routes by which to break the bloody deadlock by the sea wall.

Mike Rehm of the 5th Rangers had been huddled beneath the shingle bank for two hours or more with a group of men when Cota appeared.

In one of his legendary encounters of the day, the general demanded to know who they were. Rangers, he was told. "Then, godammit, if you're Rangers get up and lead the way!" exploded Cota.

The men began to thrust explosives beneath the wire ahead, until they could blow a gap.

Soon the entire hillside was wreathed in smoke from the blazing undergrowth. Coughing and choking, the Rangers realized that they could not run through it, but at last they pulled on their gas masks and groped forward.

Some 35 men reached the road at the top of the hill. Covered by 60 mm mortars firing at such short range that the tubes were almost vertical, they began to work slowly westwards. There were now Americans behind some of the most dangerous German positions covering the beach.

By 11 a.m., Vierville was in American hands. When Cota himself reached a house on the edge of the village, he found 70 men sheltering against the wall who shouted "Sniper! Sniper!" as he approached.

The brigadier impatiently ordered them to clear the way. They closed in on the German, who threw a stick grenade down the hill towards them before being killed seconds later.

Cota began to move on down the draw towards the beach. He met one of his own staff officers, Major William Bretton, clutching a briefcase and looking exceedingly angry. "Dammit, I can't get these people to move," complained Bretton. Cota called a young infantry captain and told him to get his men going off the beach.

Hesitantly, they began to obey. Then Cota spotted an abandoned bulldozer loaded with TNT, desperately needed to blow obstacles down the beach. He shouted to the men lying around it for a volunteer to drive the explosives to the engineers.

At last a red-headed soldier stood up and said "I'll do it," and climbed on to the vehicle. Yard by yard, the beach was unsticking. At 1.30 p.m., Gen. Bradley received the signal: "Troops formerly pinned down advancing up heights behind beaches."

The German strongpoints were being knocked out either by superbly vigorous gunfire from the destroyers steaming as close as 800 yards offshore, or by determined action from Rangers or infantry.

On the German side, Hein Severloh's battery had long since been reduced to firing single rounds in place of salvoes, for several weeks earlier half its ammunition reserve had been moved further inland as an intended precautionary measure against a direct hit.

Now the gunners had no means of bringing shells forward and the only truck driver who attempted to do so was blown up by an Allied aircraft attack.

By noon, Severloh himself had fired 12,000 rounds from his machine gun, and was reduced to shooting tracer. This was helpful to his aim, for the gun's sights had been shot off by a stray bullet, but deadly in revealing his position to American spotters.

Severloh and the men in the strongpoint decided that enough was enough. They ran crouching from the entrance and began to work their way up the hill towards the rear, and safety. Only Severloh and one signaler escaped alive.

All that afternoon,

CONTINUED

BLOODY FIGHTING...Continued

Brigadier Cota moved relentlessly up and down the hillside, urging on the men clambering in sluggish files through the minefields and over the bodies of the dead.

There were still perilously few heavy weapons on the higher ground to support the infantry now beginning to fight through the first hedges and fields of Normandy.

When Cota found a group of Rangers claiming to be pinned down beyond Vierville, the general himself walked ahead of them across the open ground to demonstrate that a man could move and survive.

Many soldiers who attempted to set this sort of example on June 6 and in the weeks that followed were killed instantly. But Cota lived and the Rangers moved forward.

Although persistent shellfire was still falling on the beach behind them, most of the Germans defending the hillside were dead or captured, and their gunnery observation posts had been destroyed, removing the batteries' vital eyes.

Medical corpsmen were moving among the wounded, looking out for those who had died so that they might give their blankets to men who were still living, but shivering. One of Cota's staff marveled at the spectacle of a group of engineers sitting on the sand eating their K rations apparently oblivious of the dead and wounded all around them.

A dog, which had evidently been the pet of one of the German strongpoints, fell upon men of the 1st Division moving up the bluff with impressive enthusiasm, and had to be driven off with carbine fire.

At 4:30 p.m., a staff officer of the 29th Division noted in his diary: "Prayed for the fourth time today, asking God — 'Why do these things have to be visited upon men?' "

Brigadier Cota and his aide saw a soldier who appeared to be frozen with terror, praying on his knees in the scrub above the beach. But when they reached him, they saw that he was dead.

While the Utah landing had gone as nearly in accordance with planning as any commander could have expected, on Omaha the failures and errors of judgment by the staff had only been redeemed by the men on the sand.

'You just knew our guys had the guts'

By LEO STANDORA

WILLIE WILNER, a 24-year-old sailor from Jersey City, was among the first to know that the landing at Omaha Beach would be painfully slow and bloody.

As a signalman on the Coast Guard-manned attack ship Joseph T. Dickman, Wilner got messages from shore as well as other vessels in the assault convoy and relayed them to his commander.

They were messages that wrenched the gut, recalled Wilner, now an asst. production manager at The Post.

"Casualties heavy. Men can't get off the beach. Heavy enemy fire. Send additional supplies. That's all that was coming in at the beginning.

"Hell, we all figured we'd go in their and kick tail so this had us worried."

Throughout that "longest day," Wilner saw ships like his, ripped apart by mines, left with with only their bows sticking out of the shallow water.

And he heard the agony of the wounded and dying.

After Omaha Beach was secured and the Dickman's job done, the ship took more than 160 wounded men back to England.

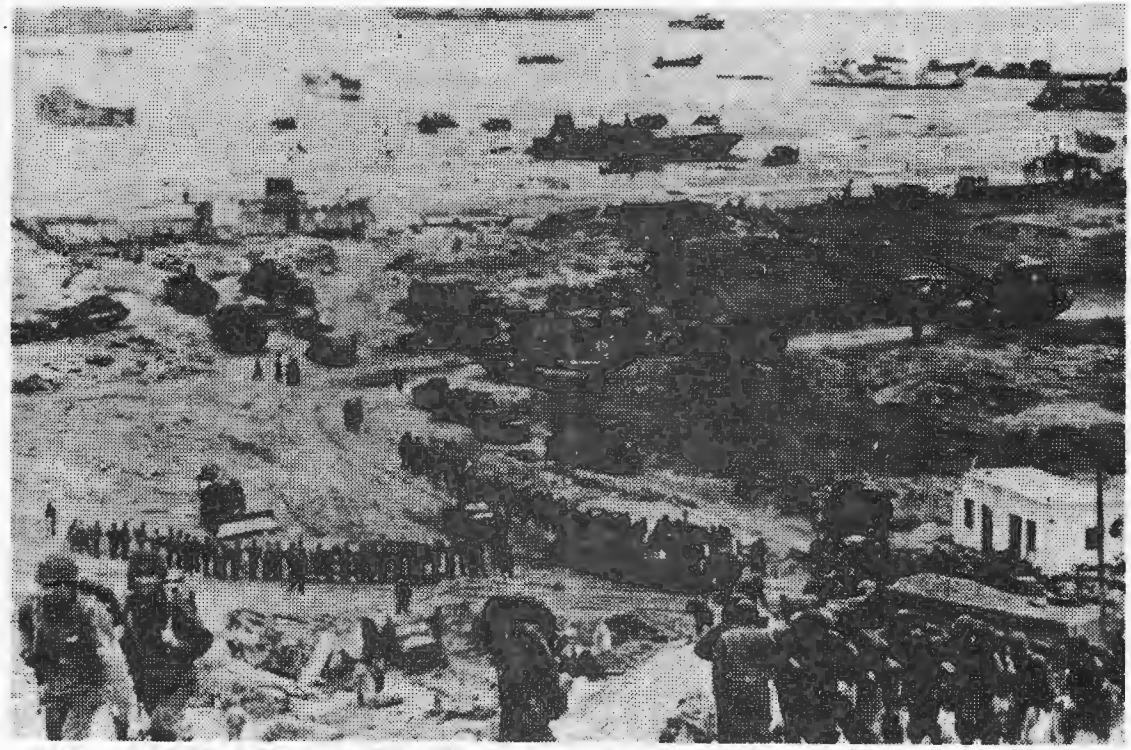
"These were real heroes," said Wilner. "They gave everything they had for their country and a lot of them never got to see it again."

During the return trip, Wilner said he felt both anger for the enemy and anguish for bandaged and bloody soldiers he was bringing back to safety.

But one thing he never felt was doubt about the outcome of the invasion.

"When the assault started there were those big battle-wagons blowing out those huge sheils. And ships as far as the eye could see. And so many planes in the air — thousands of them — that they actually blotted out the sun," said Wilner.

"You could see the power, you could feel it. And you knew our guys had the guts. It might be tough, but you just knew we'd win."



THE YANKS ARE COMING! **Overview of the battleground after the infantry secured beaches and moved inland to engage the Nazis in more bloody combat.**

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER 28 May 1984 Pg. 15

Normandy's honky-tonk battlefields

By Sidney E. Elsner

Forty years ago on June 6, the Western Allies landed on the coast of Normandy, Nazi Germany's Atlantic Wall, and began the invasion that 335 days later would end with Germany's surrender. This June 6, and for many weeks after, there will be commemorations and reunions. Thousands of veterans from America, many from Ohio, will return. To what?

Don't expect a Gettysburg, an Antietam, a preserved Yorktown. In the shallows off Omaha Beach, down below the American military cemetery that contains 9,386 U.S. war dead—307 of them known but to God—the sea has reverted to its prewar fun-and-frolic character.

Stand between the cemetery and the English Channel, stand right on top of the escarpment from which the Germans were shooting down with horrible effect on June 6 and 7, 1944, and you see the sands of Omaha Beach, where people are sunning and playing. In the water, bathers, sailboaters, Sunfish sailors. A regular honky-tonk.

Beachfront town after beachfront town... it looks like Geneva-on-the-Lake.

It seems indecent. This is hallowed ground. But I suppose the French have to take a different view of the matter. If France were to memorialize big sections of its territory for every war that had been fought there, perhaps a fifth of the country would be set aside. So there are few marked routes, few guided tours. This was a beach resort before the Germans came, and it is one after they left.

I made the pilgrimage to the invasion coast in July, 1983, because I wanted to walk in the footsteps of those on Utah Beach and Omaha Beach—the Americans—and on Gold (British), Juno (Canadian and British) and Sword (British and Free French). On these landing beaches the whole world turned. And now what?

Beachfront town after tacky beachfront town, it looks like Geneva-on-the-Lake. Summer traffic is bumper-to-bumper on narrow roads jammed with parked cars. It took our bus almost three hours to make 20 miles.

It wasn't even the big August holiday season yet, and everything was clogged with people seeking the water, the same water the Allied invasion forces used, and in which they were mowed down.

Despite the honky-tonk atmosphere of the coastal towns, the battlefield memorials and invasion museums that do exist are well done. The Normandy American Cemetery atop Omaha Beach covers 172 acres. Use of the site has been granted in perpetuity by France to the United States. The site includes a vast memorial and a chapel. In the cemetery, all in neat, well-tended rows, are crosses and stars of David made from white Italian marble. The 9,386 Americans buried there are not all—more than 14,000 bodies were returned home. The Garden of the Missing names another 1,557 never found.

Farther inland are the British and Canadian cemeteries, usually stone crosses set in a cleared spot beside a farm road. Elsewhere, the German cemeteries, posted "Deutscher Soldatenfriedhof." Not crosses of white marble, but rough-hewn, dark-grey granite.

And all about you, the characteristic Normandy hedgerows—the same as those that held up the Allied advance so many weeks. And way over there, the once-marshy fields into which U.S. paratroopers jumped by mistake, many to die tangled in their webs. Now, this day, a French sport parachute club is making practice landings on drained areas.

Eight miles west of Omaha Beach is Pointe du Hoc, an outdoor museum in itself. Here U.S. Rangers scrambled up sheer cliffs to silence German heavy artillery that was aimed at Utah Beach, well within range, and Omaha beyond. Here is the Pointe du Hoc Ranger Memorial.

Today the area remains exactly as the Rangers left it the afternoon of June 8, 1944. The only addition is the large stone memorial tribute erected by the French people.

Without Arromanches, at the center of the British Gold Beach, which is next to Omaha Beach, the battle of Normandy might have been impossible to win. The British constructed in deepest secrecy the instrument that not only turned the tide of war, but overcame the coastal tides: huge floating concrete docks on telescopic legs that rode even with the tides.

Today, the area remains exactly as the Rangers left it the afternoon of June 8, 1944.

The artificial harbor was named Mulberry, the caissons were Phoenixes, rising from the

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

BALTIMORE NEWS-AMERICAN 28 May 1984 Pg. 2B

Brotherhood draws veterans to D-Day site

By Marc R. Crowe
Special to The News American

In October 1944, George Itzel was one of the American servicemen who erected a memorial on a farm in France to his countrymen killed in the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. He survived the beach siege. But the cemetery at nearby St. Laurent, where more than 9,200 American soldiers are buried, attests to the tragedy that went hand in hand with the glory of the Allied Forces' victory.

Itzel, 66, is one of some 40,000 veterans who will return to the beaches of France to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the invasion. Itzel estimates that 22 men and their families from his unit, the 147th Engineer Veterans Association, will be making the trip. He will be the only Baltimore resident.

Why is Itzel going back?

"The basic reason is to pay our respects to those who died. This isn't really a reunion," Itzel said.

He said that he feels a brotherhood with the French people. He likens the American soldiers — who are buried in French soil to the French soldiers who gave their lives to free the colonies during the Revolutionary War and who are buried in America.

He has had 40 years to reflect on the invasion and time has not dulled his sentiment. "There is one dominant thought: Whatever the price, we prevented a catastrophe from happening. You can't compromise with disaster."

In 1979, he was a member of the party that returned to Normandy to pay their respects to the men who died and rededicate a monument. During that visit, the original hand-painted plywood shield was replaced with a new bronze replica plaque. He describes the remembrances and the commemoration as a "very private and special thing."

Itzel, an assistant claims manager at City Hall Law Offices, was a 26-year-old lieutenant in the 6th Engineer Shore Brigade back in 1944, one of the first assault teams to attempt to land on Omaha Beach.

Itzel describes the scene like it was yesterday, not two generations ago. "That day is still very vivid. I will never forget that.

"Before the invasion the feeling was confident. We had confidence in our training and accomplishing our mission. But we were scared as hell during the invasion," he said.

The engineers were one of the first groups to attempt to go ashore. "Besides us, there weren't many people over there except for the Germans. On Omaha Beach, we faced a tremendous amount of enemy fire from about 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.," Itzel said.

Their job, according to Itzel, was to make the landing safer and easier for the combat troops and the equipment and evacuate the injured to the transport ships. This entailed clearing the beach wire away because most of the beaches were mined, he said.

In phase two of the operation, the engineers had to bring the cargo ashore. This meant using existing roads where they were available and building new roads when needed. "We built an airstrip within three days," Itzel said.

Itzel didn't make it ashore in the original assault, however. At approximately 7:30 a.m. his unit tried to go ashore, but the Germans blew out the boat's ramp. When they made another attempt, a German mortar shell ripped a hole in the belly of the ship and started a fire in the engine room.

When the remaining men jumped overboard, Itzel was stunned by a mortar explosion and was taken back to a transport ship. Although scared and stunned, Itzel said that he and the other injured "wanted to get back to the shore."

He estimates that 50 of the original 92 men in his unit made it ashore — 18 were killed and the rest were injured.

Itzel will fly out of New York on Friday with 21 other veterans and their families and will tour around Europe before ending up in Normandy for the June 6 activities.

There will be a ceremony at the spot where the Rangers first landed. President Reagan and French President Francois Mitterand are two of the world leaders that will be on hand for that ceremony.

HONKY-TONK BATTLEFIELDS
...Continued

sea, and Arromanches took on the name of Port Winston, for Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Churchill's determination to float this artificial harbor across the channel is shown in the directive he sent to Vice Admiral Mountbatten, chief of combined operations:

"PIERS FOR USE ON BEACHES

"C.C.O. or deputy.

"They must float up and down with the tide. The anchor problem must be mastered. Let me have the best solution worked out. Don't argue the matter. The difficulties will argue for themselves.

"WC 30. 5. 42"

Another Mulberry harbor was made at St.-Laurent-sur-Mer in the American attack zone. On June 18 a storm wiped it out. Better sheltered, the Arromanches port continued after a three-day suspension. For the next two months it became the world's greatest port in terms of tonnage landed daily. It was the key to the liberation of Europe.

Accordingly, in the heart of Arromanches, directly opposite the Mulberry area, is a splendid museum devoted to the invasion, the Mulberries and everything that goes with them, including one of the three-foot-tall dummy parachute figures that were dropped by the thousands to confuse the Germans before D-Day dawn.

Today? At high tide, swimmers and boaters frolic at the remains of the Phoenixes, slowly being reclaimed by the sea.

Elsner is a former associate editor of The Plain Dealer.

LOS ANGELES TIMES 29 May 1984 Pg. 4

Historian Faults U.S. Units in Normandy on Tactics

German Army Was 'Greatest,' Book Says

NEW YORK (AP)—The German army during World War II was one of the greatest armies of all time and almost always won when fighting on equal terms, a British historian says in a book scheduled to be released on the 40th anniversary of D-Day.

After Allied troops landed in northern France on June 6, 1944, "the inescapable reality of the battle for Normandy was that when Allied troops met Germans on anything like equal terms, the Germans almost always prevailed," historian Max Hastings says.

"The Allies in Normandy faced the finest fighting army of the war, one of the greatest that the world has ever seen.

"This is a simple truth that some soldiers and writers have been reluctant to acknowledge," Hastings wrote, "partly for reasons of nationalistic pride, partly because it is a painful concession when the Wehrmacht and SS were fighting for one of the most obnoxious regimes of all time," Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

Some Generals 'Incompetent'

Hastings' latest book, "Overlord, D-Day June 6 1944," is to be published in New York and London on June 6 by Simon and Schuster and Michael Joseph. It "will shock," says Drew Middleton, military affairs writer for the New York Times.

Hastings says "few American infantry units arrived in Normandy with a grasp of basic tactics—a failure for which many men paid with their lives. . . . Some of the generals . . . were incompetent."

The junior leadership of the German forces "was much superior to that of the Americans, perhaps also to that of the British," the book says.

"Within the Allied armies in Normandy in 1944-45, the ethos was that of men committed to doing an unwelcome but necessary job for the cause of democracy. The ethos of the German army, profoundly influenced by the threat from the (Communist) east, was of a society fighting to escape *Gotterdammerung*," the German word for the myth of the destruction of the world in the last great conflict between the gods and the forces of evil.

In the Allied armies—British, American and Canadian—"suicidal, sacrificial acts of courage were admired when performed by individuals and rewarded with decorations. But they were not demanded of whole Allied formations as they were of so many of Hitler's armies."

Hasting concludes that "one lesson from the fighting in Normandy seems important for any future battle that the armies of democracy might be called upon to fight. If a Soviet invasion force swept across Europe, it would be unhelpful if contemporary British or American soldiers were trained and conditioned to believe that the level of endurance and sacrifice displayed by the Allies in Normandy would suffice to defeat the invaders."

"For an example to follow in the event of a future European battle," Hastings said, "it will be necessary to look to the German army; and to the extraordinary defense that its men conducted in Europe in the face of all the odds against them, and in spite of their own demented Fuehrer," who overruled their commanding generals with unrealistic strategic commands.

NEW YORK TIMES 28 May 1984 Pg. 6

KOHL'S D-DAY SNUB BY ALLIES ASSAILED

French Politician Blames U.S. for Exclusion of German From Normandy Rites

By JOHN VINOCUR
Special to The New York Times

PARIS, May 27 — The exclusion of Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany from ceremonies commemorating the 40th anniversary of D-day next month has come under criticism here.

Simone Veil, a former president of the European Parliament, and a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp, said Mr. Kohl should have been asked to come to the events June 6 that will bring together the chiefs of state of the Allied powers at the Normandy invasion beaches.

Talking to reporters, Mrs. Veil, who leads the conservative and moderate ticket here in the European parliamentary elections June 17, said of a possible role for Mr. Kohl in the ceremonies: "I think it's the Americans who oppose it. Their mentality hasn't evolved the way ours has. I think Helmut Kohl should have been invited — that's the meaning of the European Community."

A similiar position to Mrs. Veil's was expressed last week by former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The question has become one of continuing embarrassment here after French and American sources disclosed last week that Mr. Kohl, through intermediaries, had sought to be invited to ceremonies that will bring together Queen Elizabeth II, President Reagan, President François Mitterrand and Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

An American official said Mr. Kohl, who was 14 years old at the time of the invasion that led to the defeat of Hitler's Germany, appeared to think his presence at the ceremonies could mark the reconciliation between West Germany and its former enemies. The American official described the United States as not being opposed in principle to Mr. Kohl's participation, but relieved that the decision on the matter was one for France to make.

The embarrassment here was compounded when a spokesman for Mr. Kohl denied last Monday that an invitation was sought. The next day Le Monde, the leading French newspaper, contradicted the spokesman, not only saying that efforts indeed had been made by the Chancellor to attend the ceremonies but that Mr. Kohl raised the question personally in a conversation with Britain's Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

The result of Mr. Kohl failing to receive an invitation, the newspaper said, "created bitter reaction" among the Germans.

Mr. Kohl and Mr. Mitterrand will meet for two days here starting Monday in one of their regularly scheduled meetings.

The main subjects of discussion will be Common Market finances and preparing for the meeting of leading industrial nations in London next month, but it was thought possible that some kind of face-saving gesture toward Mr. Kohl about the D-day invitation would emerge from the talks.

WASHINGTON POST 29 May 1984 Pg. A15

Maxwell D. Taylor

Jumping Into Europe

A former paratroop commander looks back 40 years to D-Day.

Nowadays Greenham Common in Berkshire is known primarily as the site of demonstrations against the installation of U.S. missiles. In 1944, during the preparations for D-Day, it was the location of the headquarters of my command, the 101st Airborne Division, and the site of an important airfield. It acquired considerable fame from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's sudden visit to the division, first to dine at our headquarters, then to talk with as many departing soldiers as time permitted. When we had taken off, he went to watch from the roof of our headquarters the formation of the great airborne armada, bearing 13,000 parachutists of two airborne divisions, the 82nd and ours, that were to serve as the spearhead of the Allied invasion.

Years after the war, when Eisenhower was about to retire from the Army, he was asked to name the most memorable event of his military career. His reply was: "I think my greatest moment was when I got word that the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions had landed and gone into action in the Cherbourg Peninsula." My present theme is how our division contributed to Ike's greatest moment.

"The soldiers' "bright-eyed attention and visible eagerness to get on with their hazardous business were a needed stimulus for us older men . . .."

The division had prepared for months for D-Day. It was not just a matter of ensuring the tactical readiness of our own units but also of taking part in realistic exercises of the VII Corps simulating the conditions when our airborne soldiers would meet with seaborne troops on Utah Beach on D-Day morning. In addition I felt obliged to hold night rehearsals of our drop into Normandy, hoping among other things to find better ways to avoid the confusion to be expected there. Dissatisfied with our ability to distinguish friend from foe in the dark, at the eleventh hour I requested and obtained from the United States an emergency shipment of several thousand toy crickets to provide each parachutist with an identifying sound. I was thankful for them.

Worrisome things occurred as D-Day drew near. One example was the appearance in London bookstores of a book entitled "Paratroopers" by a Czechoslovak captain named Mitske. It was essentially an analysis of German airborne operations earlier in the war, followed by speculation as to how the Allies might use airborne troops in an invasion of Europe. It included a map showing how our parachute troops might land on the Cherbourg peninsula and indicating several possible drop zones, some of which we had already selected. There was nothing we could do about this book except hope that if members of the German General Staff had it, they would not take it seriously.

Causing greater concern was the unheralded appearance in our air photographs of heavy poles being planted irregularly in Norman fields with the obvious purpose of impeding airborne operations. Poring over these pictures nightly, we got a bright idea. By studying the irregular pattern of the poles might we not learn how the enemy expected us to land and modify our plans accordingly? But try as we might, up to takeoff time we had never found a pattern that suggested a German plan of defense.

Thus thwarted in England, I asked the first farmer I met in Normandy why he had poled one of the fields near his house and left untouched another nearby. His reply was simple: "The Germans had told us to pole all our fields by June 15. I haven't yet poled that field yonder because my cows always preferred to graze there." What embarrassment for the American brass! All along it was the preferences of local cows we had to fear, not a brilliant coup of Rommel's staff.

By May 28 for security reasons, all the units of the division had been sealed up in their departure areas—17 in all—extending over much of Wales and southern England. At the same time, I started my rounds for a final talk with my men. I wanted to be sure that everyone knew where, when and why he was going and, in the case of parachutists, what to do if badly scattered in the night jump. The order given them was: "If on landing you don't find yourself in the right place, join our men nearest you and help them take their objective."

At the end of a talk, I usually closed with an effort to impress the troops with the importance of the history they were about to make. I emphasized that all of us should be proud to be in this division and, in future years, would surely be more so of what we did now.

Although my eloquence hardly matched that of Henry V in a similar appeal to his men before Agincourt, I would concede nothing to the king in the quality of the response of our soldiers. Their bright-eyed attention and visible eagerness to get on with their hazardous business were a needed stimulus for us older men with a clearer concept of what awaited.

At this point let me revert to Greenham Common, where Ike had finished his talks with the troops, had wished me good luck for the mission and departed for his observation post at division headquarters. With the help of the jumpmaster of my plane, Maj. Larry Legere, I was buckled into my parachute harness and loaded with the paraphernalia a parachutist takes into combat—weapons, ammunition, an emergency parachute, a first-aid pack, water, rations, a jump knife, etc., which in combination convert an infantryman into a pack mule. As my "stick," that is, the men who were to accompany me, were already in their places, I climbed aboard, and promptly at 11 p.m. the plane rolled down the runway to find its appointed place among the 800 transport planes that were to carry the airborne divisions to Normandy.

The air distance from Greenham Common to destination was only about 130 miles, but it took nearly four hours for our plane to get there. Once aloft in the armada, it joined with the other planes in circling round and round over England until it was our turn to cross the Channel. For the trip, our plane and those near it assumed a tight V of V formation, flying low over the water to avoid the German radar.

It was a quiet flight at the start, with many men dozing in their hard seats. I stood in the open door through which we would later jump, feeling that I could touch the waves sparkling in the quarter moon just a few feet below. There was time to think a bit. I found comfort in the reassuring thought that we had left nothing undone in England that should have been done. If we failed, it would not be for lack of time or effort. Such reflections recalled the couplet of the 17th century poet, Montrose, that Gen. Montgomery had recommended to the senior officers of the expedition:

"He either fears his fate too much
Or his desserts are small,
That puts it not unto the touch
To gain or lose it all."

I wondered whether I feared my fate but didn't know it and what the soldiers up forward were thinking about the dangers we would encounter.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

JUMPING INTO EUROPE...Continued

Although the crossing was uneventful, as we approached our landfall on the western shore of the Cherbourg peninsula, I could see an unexpected gray wall of fog that we would have to penetrate to get to our jump zone. The fog, very thick as we entered it, caused many pilots to widen their formations to avoid collisions, but in so doing, they lost their directions. Not so our plane, which broke out of the fog without difficulty and brought us quickly to the battle zone. The latter was a fascinating spectacle—heavy anti-aircraft fire, rockets exploding in air, and a few planes burning on the ground.

During this short period, our jumpmaster lined us up in the aisle of the plane ready to jump. I was at the door pressed against the back of the jumpmaster when the green light of the pilot signaled "Jump" and out we went.

At this moment, the plane was flying low at about 500 feet to avoid ground fire and to allow us parachutists to land more or less together. The latter did not occur in my case. My chute opened with a jerk and I floated toward the top of a tall tree. Not eager to become hung up in it and an easy target for a German rifleman, I made every effort to avoid the branches and succeeded in landing inside a small field enclosed by an impenetrable hedgerow. While there was considerable firing in the neighborhood, I was all alone except for three cows that were casting suspicious eyes at this man from Mars.

My first problem was to get out of my tightly buckled parachute, work my way from this field, and then locate such troops as we might have nearby. To speed things up, I cut away my parachute and equipment with my jump knife, drew and cocked my pistol, readied my identification cricket and moved cautiously toward a nearby gate. As I drew near the gate, I suddenly heard the welcome sound of a cricket. I responded in kind and jumped around the gate. There in the moonlight stood a parachute infantryman, bareheaded but with his rifle ready and the bayonet fixed. I have often said in later years that he was the finest looking soldier I had ever seen in my career. We slapped backs reciprocally and proceeded in silence to look for our misplaced division.

We eventually found parts of it in small groups dispersed among the hedgerows—about 90 men by daylight. But where were we? Fortunately I spotted and recognized the church steeple of Ste. Marie du Mont to our northeast, information that indicated we were not far from the southern end of Utah Beach, a major objective of the division for which no visible unit appeared to be responsible at the moment. Deciding to make this objective our own, we formed a ragtag column which I put under the command of Lt. Col. Julian Ewell, a battalion commander for the moment without a battalion, and took off for the coast town of Pouppeville. There we could expect to meet the lead forces of the 4th Infantry Division.

The Germans caused us little trouble during most of our march to the beach, so we could admire the imposing sight of the amphibious landings taking place both at Utah and Omaha beaches. Large formations of bombers were attacking targets behind Omaha while naval guns seemed to be firing on just about anything everywhere. I spent much of the morning ducking their screaming shells many of which, after ricocheting in front of us, seemed to pass overhead just above one's helmet. As we drew near to Pouppeville, we had a brisk fight with a considerable number of Germans who had accumulated in the vicinity. As they were for the most part quite happy to surrender, we rounded them up with few losses.

As the firing died down at Pouppeville, it began anew to the north as elements of the 4th Division started to move inland from the beach. To avoid any collision of our troops with theirs, I sent a small patrol to meet and guide them to Pouppeville. It was about noon when their advance guard appeared to the cheers of our men, who well understood the importance of this junction.

Having no radio of my own, I obtained the use of one belonging to the 4th Division to inform Gen. Omar Bradley at Army headquarters of the contact just made and the absence of enemy resistance along the entire extent of Utah Beach. Thus ended our D-Day spearhead role, but not our part in the continuing battle.

From D-plus-1 on, as a light infantry division, we were engaged in many operations, including the protection of the rear of our divisions moving north on Cherbourg; a forced crossing of the Douve River followed by the occupation of Carentan, a key town to the south; and the repulse of a heavy panzer counterattack aimed at retaking Carentan in the period June 11-13. Thereafter things were quiet for us until mid-July, when we were ordered back to England. There we prepared for a future that eventually included an airborne operation in Holland and the defense of Bastogne in the Battle of the Bulge.

It is relevant to ask what were the gains and losses of the airborne operations on D-Day and after. The price paid for participation by the 101st is clear—the loss of more than 1,000 men on D-Day and more than 4,000 in the entire Normandy campaign.

The gains were of several kinds. It was a strategic gain to the Allies to have two airborne divisions, transportable into battle by plane, parachute and glider, as a valuable reinforcement which would not have been available had it been necessary to transport them by scarce sea transport.

The night landing and daylight attacks added to the surprise of the German leaders still looking to Le Havre for the main allied landing. The unintended dispersion of our parachutists up and down the Cherbourg peninsula added to the confusion and uncertainty of the enemy generals, who for a week were unable to launch a significant counterattack against our front whereas we had feared one since D-plus-1.

The almost bloodless landing of the 4th Division on and beyond Utah beach was a major gain that requires no further mention.

Finally there were gains enjoyed both by the 101st Airborne Division and eventually the U.S. Army. In a few hours, the division had passed from a young and inexperienced unit never before exposed to hostile fire to a proud, confident and, I must admit, a somewhat swaggering division ready to take on all comers. It improved in quality with each subsequent campaign, reaching a peak in the defense of Bastogne.

"The plane was flying at about 500 feet to avoid ground fire and allow us to land more or less together."

The gain of the U.S. Army is long-term, the result of the unusual ability demonstrated by so many D-Day officers in later years. I don't know to what extent it was the effect of D-Day experience, but an impressive number of them reached general officer grade in the course of their subsequent careers. By my count, they amount to three four-star generals, five lieutenant generals, five major generals and one brigadier. Quite a legacy of talent for the U.S. Army to receive from one division.

The writer was Army chief of staff from 1955 to 1959 and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1962 to 1964.

NEW YORK POST 29 May 1984 Pg. 33

France ready for another invasion

By JACK SCHNEDLER

ST. LAURENT-SUR-MER, France — These 9386 crosses and stars of David in white Italian marble speak with eloquence beyond any orator's power of what happened here June 6, 1944, when the greatest seaborne force in history invaded Nazi-occupied France.

The grave markers fan out toward the horizon at the Normandy American Cemetery, which commands a superb view overlooking Omaha Beach, now a placid stretch of sand and scrub dotted with a few vacation huts and trailers.

This is where the bloodiest fighting of D-Day raged into the afternoon before uncounted acts of personal heroism managed to secure the U.S. beachhead.

That memorable "Longest Day," so christened by the late author Cornelius Ryan, will be back in front-page headlines June 6.

President Reagan, Queen Elizabeth, seven other heads of state and several thousand Allied veterans are expected to converge on this stretch of Normandy coast to mark the 40th anniversary of Operation Overlord.

The returning GIs will be feted by the fiercely independent citizens of Normandy, led by those Frenchmen old enough to remember their liberation 40 years ago.

The event is being billed as a "last hurrah" for D-Day veterans, many of whom are now in their 60s.

To those who have never faced combat, it may be puzzling that veterans would want to revisit such a scene of devastation and death.

Hal Ryder, who landed at Utah Beach west of Omaha on the morning of D-Day with a combat engineer unit, knows some of the reasons why veterans come back — and he believes the strongest one is related to those 9386 crosses and Stars of David.

"Most of all, I think, the returning soldiers are paying homage to their buddies who died," says Ryder, managing director of Galaxy Tours, which has been taking U.S. veterans back to the old battle sites for 25 years and is the General Motors of this travel-industry specialty.

Ryder talks of other motives: nostalgia for youthful accomplishments; a "searching for memories"; reaffirmation "that what they did 40 years ago actually meant something"; showing their families "that this wasn't just a myth."

He is adamant on one point: "Soldiers don't go back to relive the horrors. A battlefield is a gruesome place, and that's not the point of our visits." Galaxy carefully avoids identifying its packages as "battlefield tours." This year's program is called "Operation Friendly Invasion: A Sentimental Journey."

If you are not a D-Day veteran, there is still much to be seen and learned in the Normandy battle area, whose villages and historic cities have rebuilt themselves from the rubble of 1944. This is one part of France where Americans can count on a friendly reception, whatever the ebb and flow of Franco-American relations since the end of the war.

Here are highlights from a three-day visit earlier this month:

THE U.S. CEMETERY: Normandy American Cemetery is only the third largest of the 20 burial sites maintained in Europe by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Meuse-Argonne Cemetery at Romagne, France, holds the graves of 14,246 U.S. casualties from World War I, and Lorraine Cemetery at Avold, France, is the site of 10,489 World War II dead.

But this is the most visited of the 20.

To walk among the ranks of crosses and Stars of David, pausing to read an inscription here and there, is a numbing excursion.

POINTE DU HOC: Along most of the D-Day beaches — from Sword in the east through Juno, Gold and Omaha to Utah in the west — it is hard to visualize that a great and fearsome battle raged only 40 years ago. Time and reconstruction have erased the evidence.

But Pointe du Hoc, eight miles northwest of the U.S. cemetery, is an exception. Atop this 100-foot cliff, which the Germans were thought to have fortified with massive 155-mm. guns, the terrain is still a moonscape of craters and shattered bunkers from the Allied bombardment of June 6, 1944.

THE BATTLE MUSEUM: The attitude toward the defeated enemy is more forgiving at the Museum of the Battle of Normandy. It opened three years ago in Bayeux, best known as the home of the famous tapestry depicting William the Conqueror's invasion of England in 1066.

THE PARATROOPERS: If you saw *The Longest Day* movie, you may remember Red Buttons as a paratrooper dangling from the steeple of a village church.

That steeple stands seven miles inland from Utah Beach in Ste. Mere-Eglise, whose town hall still displays the first U.S. flag raised on liberated French soil, at 4:30 a.m. on June 6.

A hotel-restaurant here is named for John Steele, the real-life dangling paratrooper, and the church has a stained-glass window given by the 82nd Airborne Division.

WALL STREET JOURNAL 29 May 1984 Pg. 34

Map of Normandy's Wartime Locales Is Reissued by Michelin

* * *

40th Anniversary of Allied Invasion to Be Marked by Tourists and Royalty

By CRAIG FORMAN
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

OMAHA BEACH, France—In 1944, when members of the Allied forces fighting in Normandy lost their bearings, they turned to the Michelin Guide, reprinted by the U.S. War Department.

Today, the armies invading Normandy are mostly peaceful tourists. Thousands are expected to visit in early June to mark the 40th anniversary of D-Day. And they, too, are turning to a Michelin reprint to guide their way.

Cie. Generale des Ets. Michelin, the French tire and travel-guide company, has published a reproduction of its first postwar map of the western French province and the battle for Normandy. Covering the area from Mont St. Michel in the south to Le Havre in the north, the 1947 road map marks with red arrows where the Allied troops attacked on D-Day and the routes of their subsequent two-month slog through the Normandy countryside toward Paris.

The map indicates with red symbols the sites of major battles, as well as Allied parachute drops and big German gun emplacement.

Michelin came up with the idea of reprinting the map late last year when planning for this summer's events in Normandy was picking up speed. The celebrations are scheduled to be capped June 6 when Presidents Mitterrand and Reagan, Queen Elizabeth II of England, Premier Pierre Trudeau of Canada, and the monarchs of Belgium, the Netherlands and Norway meet at Utah Beach.

More than 25,000 copies have been sold, and the company plans a second printing, says Genevieve Reboul, a spokeswoman for Michelin in Paris. The reprint is being sold in all the Allied countries that participated in D-Day, though at prices ranging from 14 French francs ($1.66) in Normandy to $3.95 in the U.S.

Indeed, interest in the Normandy map apparently includes West Germany, but buying the map there is more difficult. A Michelin spokesman in Karlsruhe says the company decided not to distribute the map through usual channels after few of its outlets expressed interest. Potential buyers must put in a special request for the map, of which very few have been sold, the spokesman adds.

But in Paris, Mrs. Reboul isn't surprised that at least some Germans are interested in the map. "After 40 years, a lot of things have changed," she says.

WEST SAID TO MINIMIZE USSR'S WORLD WAR II ROLE

LD272001 Prague Television Service in Czech and Slovak 1730 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Here is Miroslav Bouda to comment on the forthcoming visit of the American President, Reagan, to Western Europe.

[Bouda] On 6 June a great celebration is to tke place in Normandy, France. Accompanied by a large quantity of military equipment, Western politicians will be commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Normandy landing. The impetus for this celebration, however, does not derive from the duty to pay homage to the fallen soldiers who gave up their lives in opening up the second front against German fascism, nor from any wish to fulfill the legacy of the years of the antifascist coalition, but from something quite different.

The American President, Reagan, will be trying to put the finishing touches to a campaign in which the Western press is trying to falsify the historic events of 40 years ago. The aims of this campaign have best been exposed by the English writer James Aldridge, who wrote that the arguments trying to play down the role of the Soviet Army in defeating fascism have been refuted by the memoirs of Western politicians who have clearly shown that they gave their agreement to start the second front only after they realized that the Soviet Union was capable of defeating the enemy alone. Why then does Reagan want to put himself at the head of this campaign? His scheme is not too hard to figure out. He is trying to minimize as much as possible the importance for Europe of the liberation by the Soviet Union, and also to wipe from the pages of history everything that might remind people of the time when a number of politicians in the West reached an agreement to cooperate with the Soviet Union, in the interests of defeating fascism, and therefore in the interests of peace.

It is no surprise, therefore, that in the new edition of General Eisenhower's speeches of 1944, all the sentences which objectively assessed the importance of the Soviet Army and made reference to the great Russian ally which was crucial in deciding the outcome of World War II have been deleted.

NORMANDY CEREMONY TO BE PROPAGANDA SHOW

LD302247 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1853 GMT 30 May 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] Now we shall view a video report about Normandy -- an abundant, green territory in northern France by the shores of the channel.

At present, the silence there is almost idyllic, but very soon it is to be replaced by a very noisy propaganda show, by means of which Washington has decided to mark the coming 40th anniversary of the British and American troop landing there. That is how it was 4 decades ago. Thus it was that a second front was finally opened at the start of June 1944. It opened after the Soviet Union for 3 years had virtually single-handedly fought against fascist Germany, which mobilized the resources of all of Europe that had been seized by the Nazis. The battle near Moscow, the brilliant victory of the Soviet Army at Stalingrad, and the crushing defeat of the Wehrmacht at the Kursk Bulge were already over. It was only then, when the near downfall of Hitlerite Germany was more and more clearly discernible, that the United States and Britain, after numerous procrastinations, finally undertook a landing of their troops in France.

In that area they had a manifold advantage over the Wehrmacht in both manpower and equipment. As was revealed in the very first hours of the landing, their fear of the fascist Atlantic rampart proved to be greatly exaggerated. There were only infrequent artillery pillboxes, some of which survive even to the present time.

A fresh invasion of Normandy is now being prepared -- an invasion by journalists and, above all, television crews. They are to photograph the American President, who after spending all the years of the war deep in the rear, has now conceived of the wish to visit the sites of the fighting long ago. The first so to speak landings from across the ocean have now arrived there.

But, whatever the propaganda hullabaloo that is launched during the coming few days in these as yet quiet places, it will not be able to silence the historical truth, which reminds one that the chief and decisive front of the struggle against fascism was the Soviet-German front. It was precisely on that front that the Hitlerite war machine was routed and the liberation of the peoples of Europe from the fascist yoke was begun.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1984

French-German Ceremony to Honor War Dead

By E. J. DIONNE Jr.
Special to The New York Times

RAMBOUILLET, France, May 29 — President François Mitterrand, trying to play down a controversy over West Germany's attempt to take part in ceremonies commemorating D-day, today announced a joint French-German ceremony to honor the war dead of both nations. The ceremony will be held in September.

Mr. Mitterrand made the announcement at a joint news conference with the West German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, at a 14th-century chateau in this town 30 miles west of Paris.

The news conference marked the conclusion of the 43d French-West German conference. The two leaders announced a variety of joint measures that underlined their warm personal relations and the close ties between their countries.

The agreements included plans for joint construction of a new combat helicopter, a study on establishing a military observation satellite and the ending of formalities at the French-West German border for private travelers.

But the dispute over the D-day ceremonies has turned into a public embarrassment for both Mr. Kohl and Mr. Mitterrand. The French President tried to bypass questioning on the subject today by announcing the September ceremony at Verdun and denying that Mr. Kohl had tried to take part in next month's D-day ceremonies.

Mr. Kohl had sought, through intermediaries, to attend the June 6 commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Europe, which led to the defeat of Hitler's Germany 11 months later. The Normandy ceremonies will be attended by Queen Elizabeth II, President Reagan, Mr. Mitterrand, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau of Canada and thousands of veterans.

Mr. Kohl, who reportedly believed that his presence at the ceremony would mark the reconciliation of the Allies and Germany, was rebuffed in his effort to attend. His presence was opposed by some French veterans' organizations, particularly former Resistance fighters.

In the face of repeated confirmations by various officials of Mr. Kohl's interest in taking part in the D-day ceremonies, Mr. Mitterrand said that "not one step was ever taken by the Federal Republic of Germany and its leaders in this regard."

Mr. Mitterrand said German leaders had treated the 40th anniversary of the Allied invasion "in a spirit of discretion and delicacy."

Mr. Kohl added, "Neither I nor anyone in my Government took steps toward participation in the anniversaty of the landing."

The ceremony at Verdun, where hundreds of thousands of German and French soldiers died in a major battle between the two countries in World War I, was seen as a face-saving measure by Mr. Mitterrand. The ceremony will be held at the end of September and will underline Franch-German friendship, Mr. Mitterrand said.

Mr. Mitterrand also noted that a German memorial ceremony would take place on June 8 at the main German cemetary at La Cambe, near Isigny, to commemorate the German dead in the Normandy campaign.

For his part, Mr. Kohl called Verdun a place that "more than any other is the symbol of the sacrifices of the young."

"More than one million deaths took place there," he said, "and there are neither French nor German families who lack ties to Verdun." Mr. Kohl said his father served six months as an offlcer there.

Colorado Springs Sun, Wednesday, May 30, 1984 15

D-Day's message still with us today

There is one image above all that shapes the nature of the modern world: D-Day.

As dawn began to break on the English Channel on June 6, 1944, the dim outline of dark vessels could be seen. When the light grew, an incredible sight loomed — ships as far as the eye could see, literally as far as the eye could see. Five thousand ships in all, the largest armada in the history of the world!

What happened after that was brutal, fascinating, heroic and bloody — but was foreordained. Scared and brave soldiers stormed the Normandy beaches — Americans, Canadians, Brits, Poles, Dutchmen, Frenchmen. Some of them were torn to bits. Heavy artillery pulverized the verdant countryside.

Ben Wattenberg
Nationally syndicated columnist

Thousands of planes covered the sky like a horde of thrumming locusts. The beachhead was secured, then expanded. Artificial harbors were floated into place. Ultimately, millions of men played a role in reconquering Europe and in winning World War II.

But it was foreordained at dawn on D-Day. For a message went out that morning that was as clear as if it had been sent out in Morse code blinker by the battleship USS Arkansas. It is a message that sill reverberates today, even as it is regularly challenged.

The message is this: There is a free world. It is led by the United States. It stands for a moral idea. When pushed too far, the nations of that free world — nations always thought of as a little decadent, always thought of as indecisive and self-delusionary — can act. When they act they can act with an industrial potency and technological wizardry beyond belief. And they can prevail in the cause of human liberty.

That picture — freedom's mighty armada in a stormy sea — remains with us yet. It is still the root of the modern equation. It energizes what today we call the Western Alliance, which includes, interestingly enough, all of our enemies on D-Day: Germany, Japan and Italy. It is an alliance, which, despite all the talk of economic and political problems, is still the greatest, mightiest, most prosperous, freest collection of nations the world has ever seen. And we Western allies remain together because in our mind's eye we remember what dawn looked like on June 6, 1944. We still believe we can get our act together if we must.

The same image sets the modern stage for our adversaries. The Soviets — our allies against the Nazis — know that for all the silliness and vacillation and demagoguery that the democratic world can produce, it also will produce a Franklin Roosevelt and a Winston Churchill and such leaders will use steel if they have to. Truth be told, that is why we have had peace between the big powers for four decades.

The images of D-Day even shape our arguments these days. It is said by some that World War II was the last just war. It is said that the world's not like that anymore, that Americans shouldn't be so involved anymore, that maybe we're not the good guys anymore, and, most importantly, it is said that we and our allies can't act like that again, even if we wanted to.

It was that argument that split the Democratic Party over Vietnam, and it splits many of us still. I know that when Gary Hart said that we couldn't even assert ourselves to help out in Central America, he lost me. It splits conservatives, too: There are "global unilateralists" who say we can't count on the Europeans any more and we have to go it alone.

But for the moment at least — and probably for more than just the moment — the image of D-Day still prevails and serves as our linchpin. We argue among ourselves, and the allies argue among themselves, about this policy or that, often nastily, as democratic societies will do. But when all is said and done, we still usually act in some broad concert, as with the missile deployment last year.

We do this because in the back of our minds is a picture we have seen so many times in stock film footage. It is a picture of ships as far as the eye can see blinking out a message saying there is a free world, that it is led by the United States, that it will be involved, and that it will go to steel if it must.

Because we still see that, we probably won't have to do it again, and over the sweep of time, human liberty will survive on this planet.

USA TODAY
31 May 1984 Pg. 8

D-day on TV

Special for USA TODAY

D-day plus 40, the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Nazi-held Europe, will be seen live Wednesday on all major U.S. networks.

Only Cable News Network, however, plans to broadcast live almost every other activity of President Reagan as he visits Ireland and Normandy and attends the London Economic Summit.

ABC, NBC and CBS — the last with Walter Cronkite as the host — are planning live coverage for their morning news shows of Wednesday's ceremonies on Utah and Omaha beaches. NBC plans a prime-time special (8-9 p.m. EDT) that day.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR 31 May 1984 Pg. 1

Normans remember D-Day and the GIs who liberated them

By William Echikson
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

At the D-Day beaches, France

FRENCHMEN are preparing to welcome some 30,000 of their American liberators back June 6 for the 40th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

They will do this with immense joy, even though D-Day for them was more frightening and sad than liberating. Only afterward did they appreciate the enormity of what they had lived through — and the essential rightness of the affair.

On the morning of June 6, 1944, Michel Hardeley, an engineer, stepped out of an underground shelter and found himself facing an American soldier. With growing fright, Hardeley watched as the soldier reached down toward his trigger, and then farther downward into his pockets, finally to emerge with a pack of cigarettes.

'We don't make much money off of the invasion. We feel an obligation to show we haven't forgotten.'

— Mayor de Vailleville

Michel de Vailleville, a young farmer, spotted the Americans from the window of his house. He went to greet them, but before he had taken more than a few steps, the soldiers fired and he was wounded.

Therese Dumont, a grocery store clerk, was too scared to leave the shop's back-room shelter and greet the Americans. Instead, she hid, waiting for her father to return from the countryside. He would never come back: He had been killed.

Ten-year-old Henri-Jean Renaud was also hiding from the tat-tat-tat outside. Peeking through the keyhole, he saw what looked to him like raggedy clowns. But he didn't laugh at the paratroopers with tree branches on their helmuts for camouflage. He was too frightened.

De Vailleville, who spent eight months in a British hospital, is now mayor of St. Marie-du-Mont, behind Utah Beach. He has set up a D-Day museum in his town and will welcome President Reagan to his village.

Renaud will lodge veteran parachutists, now old friends, at his home in Ste. Mère-Eglise. And in her grocery store behind Omaha Beach, Mme. Dumont is stocking up on extra goodies for the returning GIs.

Meanwhile, Michel Hardeley looks out his window to Omaha Beach and the sea below. For the most part, the scene is peaceful today. Hardeley's garden shelter is gone, covered with a bed of roses. The only sounds echoing there now are the lap of the low surf, the crying of sea gulls, and the shouts of children playing.

Hardeley pulls out a book of photos and memories flow forth. A boom woke him up. It didn't scare him: He was accustomed to bombing from Allied B-24s. Still, it shook him enough to make him look out his window. He saw quite a sight, part of the 4,000 boats assembled in history's greatest armada. "The water was black with boats," he recalls. "It was incredible."

He scurried to his garden hideout. In the sea below, the water would soon turn red from American blood.

Like other residents Hardeley was looking forward to liberation. The German presence was onerous:

A strict curfew affected everyone. Hardeley had to move out of his beach house. De Vailleville's farm became the site for a German battery; 70 soldiers camped in his fields, the officers in his home. They requisitioned the best food and the little gasoline available.

By spring of 1944, everyone in Normandy was listening to the BBC for news of the invasion. But when the landings came, the Normans were surprised. Most of them equated the Allies with the British, who had been evacuated from this same coast just four years before.

"Everyone was crying Tommy," Renaud recalls. "We knew the Americans were in the war, but we just didn't think they would come here."

Fright compounded the identification problem. Liberation, like any other episode in war, was scary. Each survivor remembers the screech of bombs and mortars and shelling, the tat-tat-tats of gunfire, the chaos. Then there were the corpses — German, American, and French.

Adding to the tension was distrust between the invading soldiers and the French. The Americans were surprised that civilians had not heeded warnings to flee inland. They feared Germans disguised as civilians and shot anyone who looked suspicious.

For all of these reasons, tragedy struck Mme. Dumont's father and farmer de Vailleville.

But there were small signs of the friendship to come. Hardeley enjoyed his cigarettes — occupied France had little tobacco. At midday, he dodged shells to fetch eggs and bread to share with some Americans.

Renaud recalls, "The supplies that poured in after the invasion were absolutely incredible. The Germans had nothing. The Americans had everything."

Villages were overrun with the GIs, who remained through the next winter. Friendships formed. Everyone remembers romances, even marriages, with Americans.

The postwar period brought recovery. Again, the Americans helped, this time with the Marshall Plan.

"You look at the town today, and you can't imagine that there was a war here," Renaud says.

For all this prosperity, the Normans thank the Americans and vow never to forget. Each village has a museum to honor the GIs. Entrance costs are minimal.

"We don't make much money off of the invasion," says de Vailleville. "We feel an obligation to show we haven't forgotten."

He traveled twice to the United States, gathering documents for his town's memorial. Americans returned the hospitality: While in Washington, de Vailleville stayed with Walter Berry, a 4th Division veteran. Hardeley, Dumont, and Renaud have had similar experiences.

If time has made these Normans fanatically pro-American, it has also mellowed feelings toward the Germans. Under a 1963 friendship treaty, the invasion sites have been twinned with West German cities.

USA TODAY 31 May 1984 Pg. 8

Scrappy hero Reagan's guest

By William Ringle
USA TODAY

NORMANDY, France — "Lightning Joe" Collins first arrived here by stepping from a 25-foot-long landing craft that pounded onto Utah Beach.

That was 40 years ago.

Gen. J. Lawton Collins was commanding the VII Corps that went on to liberate the French port at Cherbourg. He also led a critical offensive in the the Battle of the Bulge and, in May 1945, units under his command linked up with Soviets at Germany's Elbe River.

On Wednesday, the 89-year-old soldier — the senior surviving D-day officer — returns here as the special guest of President Reagan.

After D-day, Collins' troops infuriated Adolf Hitler by achieving what the German dictator believed would be the most dangerous threat to his Fortress Europe — the loss of a major English Channel port, Cherbourg on the Cotentin Peninsula.

When Hitler learned of Cherbourg's fall, he ordered courts-martial for all his officers who might be responsible.

Collins' scrappiness is renowned. On Christmas Eve 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, the Germans were moving westward and Collins was authorized to fall back. Instead, he took the offensive, punched a hole in the German line and, by sunset on Christmas Day, stopped the German offensive short of the Meuse River. On Dec. 28, Hitler admitted failure to his generals.

In a recent interview, Collins looked back over a career that stretched from duty with Army occupation troops after World War I to a special mission to Vietnam in 1955 at the behest of President Eisenhower.

He picked U.S. Gen. Omar Bradley as "the top field man of World War II" and cited Germany's Erwin Rommel, the "Desert Fox," as "unquestionably the best of the generals immediately opposed to us."

During the interview, Collins emerged as a great admirer of President Harry Truman whom he called "a wonderful little man" and a great wartime leader. Collins was army chief of staff during the Korean War when Truman fired Gen. Douglas MacArthur. He still agrees with that action:

"Frankly, MacArthur got a little too big for his britches," said Collins. "He forgot that he was serving under our conditions, where the civil authority has control over the military people."

BALTIMORE SUN 31 May 1984 Pg. 4

Soviets belittle D-Day celebrations planned in West, recall Russians' role

MOSCOW (Reuter) — The Soviet press yesterday attacked Western nations' plans to celebrate the 1944 allied landings in Normandy and said the invasion was far less important than the fighting on the Russian front.

Two commentaries on D-Day also charged that Western leaders delayed the offensive so that Germany could inflict maximum damage on Soviet forces, and staged the landings only when they feared Moscow might beat Hitler singlehandedly.

The articles were the latest in a growing Soviet media campaign against the anniversary celebrations which has belittled D-Day and suggested that Western troops had a relatively easy fight against the Germans.

Leaders of the nations which were involved in the June 6 invasion, including President Reagan, Britain's Queen Elizabeth and French President Francois Mitterrand, will take part in a commemoration on the Normandy beaches next week.

The weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, in an article by Gennady Gerasimov, branded the event an "American show" to give the impression that the United States saved Europe from the Nazis and is now protecting it from the Communists.

The news agency Tass quoted military historian Yuri Plotnikov as saying the allies had held up the opening of the "second front" for 2½ years so that Moscow would bear the brunt of the fighting.

"But in 1944 it became clear to the ruling circles of the U.S. and England that the U.S.S.R. was in a position to defeat the fascist German forces by itself and liberate the nations of Europe." Mr. Plotnikov said.

He said the West exaggerated not only the importance of the Normandy invasion but also the scale of the fighting that followed: "In scale, size and achievement, the military actions of the allies in France in summer 1944 bear absolutely no comparison with the offensive of the Soviet forces in this period."

Mr. Plotnikov said the Soviet Union destroyed 96 German divisions and killed 917,000 troops in the summer and autumn of 1944, while the allies crushed only 35 divisions and killed only 294,000 Germans.

Mr. Gerasimov said the Normandy invasion was carried out "in easy conditions and without any real resistance from the German forces on the coast." He said the U.S., British, French and Canadian forces suffered relatively light casualties, with about 50,000 killed in 70 days of fighting.

The commentator also dismissed as militarily unimportant earlier Western offensives against the Germans in Africa and Italy and said they showed only that the allies long avoided a "real face-to-face confrontation" with the enemy.

KAY GARDELLA NEW YORK NEWS 31 May 1984 Pg. 22

Walter Cronkite recalls D-Day & Ike

Cronkite and Eisenhower touring Normandy

WALTER CRONKITE is not only the "most trusted man in America," as he was once voted in a public opinion poll, but he's also "the most trusting."

Cronkite remembers well that day 20 years ago when CBS was filming "CBS Reports: D-Day and Eisenhower," the splendid documentary to be repeated in an edited form next Tuesday night at 8 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Allied landing on the beaches of Nazi-occupied France.

"My wife, Betsy, and Mamie Eisenhower were standing on a hill above the northern coast of Normandy," recalled Cronkite, "looking down at Omaha Beach where we were filming. It was the sequence where (Gen. Dwight) Eisenhower drives me around the beach in a jeep to explain details of the landing. Originally I was to drive, but Fred Friendly, then the head of CBS News, turned to Ike and said: 'You're giving Walter the tour. Why don't you drive?' Ike said something about not having driven a jeep for a long time, but he took the wheel.

"As he struggled with the shift, and we had trouble getting started, Mamie grabbed Betsy's arm and exclaimed: 'Betsy, Ike is driving!' 'Yes,' replied Betsy calmly. 'Oh, dear,' said Mamie. 'Your husband has never been in greater danger.'"

CRONKITE MIGHT not have agreed, remembering his own experiences 20 years earlier on D-Day. He was 27 and working for United Press. "I wasn't supposed to participate in the operation at all," he remembered. "I was told by the office to pull the thing together back in London. I did not have a D-Day assignment. Then, in the middle of the night, I was awakened and told I was nominated for a major assignment that I might not get back from. And I definitely would not get back for several hours and would not be able to get in touch with the office. But if I did go, I'd have quite a story."

What it turned out to be, recalled Cronkite, was to fly at a low level with a formation of B-17s over the crescent-shaped row of beaches on the coast of Normandy. "They had been asked to lend additional fire power behind the beaches," said the newsman, "and they were not trained for low-level flying. I was picked from six newsmen to be the pool reporter. It was the kind of thing we could have done in Grenada.

"They made the first pass over and couldn't drop their bombs. We saw the assembled fleet through broken clouds and flashes of light on the beach. But the clouds were closing in, and we had to climb up further to get a clearer spot. We made another pass, but we never were able to drop the bombs. The planes were not equipped for such a job—one collision and we'd all be gone."

FOR A MAN WHO likes to be where the action is—CBS News declined his offer to sail his boat to Grenada to cover the invasion—it turned out to be "an awful day," he said. "There I was back in England, and the big story was written by my colleagues on the beach."

Twenty years later he toured the beaches with Eisenhower for the TV special. "I remember a group of schoolchildren, led by a nun, visiting the site. As she passed by, she never realized she had walked by the commander of the forces. She never recognized Ike.

"My memories of the day are very special. The two most impressive things to me were Eisenhower's compassion and memory for detail. I found the same thing to be true much later when I interviewed him for our 'Presidential Memoirs' program. Many of us assumed during the war, and during the presidency, that he was purely a staff-officer type—kind of a front man in the military and the White House. He seemed a genial, chairman-of-the-board type and good compromiser. And I went along with the pack. But in both the D-Day special and the 'Presidential Memoirs,' I found his knowledge of detail immense, about what went into making decisions."

ANOTHER THING to keep in mind, Cronkite pointed out, is the fact that "the general never had a chance to look at those beaches before we shot the program. By the time he got there on D-Day, it was much more difficult to tour them because he was too involved with carrying on the war. And on other occasions, when he returned, he was caught up in pomp and circumstance. So he was really seeing them for the first time, and it was quite exciting to share it with him."

Cronkite recalls one moment when Ike looked up at the high cliffs and shook his head in disbelief. "It's quite amazing," Ike remarked. "I just don't understand how they did it."

It was the 'Memoirs' and Eisenhower's total recall that changed Cronkite's mind and "opened my eyes" about the underestimated general. "There I sat with a lap full of material and, without knowing one question in advance, Ike was able to discuss people, dates, personnel and events without a note in front of him. I was amazed at his depth of knowledge.

"As for his compassion, it's the close of the D-Day telecast I'll always remember. His final speech was absolutely extemporaneous, It was the most eloquent plea for sanity and peace I ever heard from a military leader."

What Gen. Eisenhower said was this: "Every time I come back to these beaches, or any day I think about that day 20 years ago, I say once more we must find some way to work for peace, and to really gain an eternal peace for this world."

RADIO - TV

NBC SATURDAY NIGHT NEWS
NBC TV 6:30 PM MAY 19

D-Day Rehearsal Tragedy

CHUNG: More American men died at a rehearsal of D-Day than died in the actual assault. The site of the rehearsal has remained a secret until recently when, as Don Porter reports from England, the sands of Devon have turned up a memorial to mark the site.

DON PORTER: After 40 years beneath the waves, a World War II Sherman tank is dragged ashore at Salcombe Sands. Like a long-held secret at last revealed, this rusting hulk bears silent witness to the memory of hundreds of American GIs, men who died unheralded one night during a top secret rehearsal for D-Day, staged along this stretch of England's South Devon coast.

Late in 1943, allied commanders ordered Salcombe Sands evacuated and sealed off. Troops then mounted a series of full-scale practice beach assaults using live ammunition.

Six weeks before D-Day, one of the practice assaults on Salcombe Sands went very wrong. A convoy of amphibious landing ships loaded with American troops, tanks and fuel was caught by surprise in attacks by German torpedo boats only a few miles off this beach.

Navy signalman Manny Reuben was aboard that convoy. He saw the first torpedoes strike home.

MANNY REUBEN: A ship blew up. There was just one big orange mass of flames.

PORTER: Three ships were hit. Two went down. Panicking, the Americans returned fire, but, in the dark, hit only their own men, killing dozens of GIs. Dawn revealed the extent of the disaster.

REUBEN: We were greeted with the most horrible sight that I have ever seen in my life or any Navy man that ever was to sea, because the sea out there, as far as you could see, was littered with bodies.

PORTER: In all, some 750 Americans lost their lives in these waters that night. The military hushed it up. Survivors were threatened with court-martial if they talked. Commanders wanted nothing to leak out that might alert the Germans to the impending invasion. But the sheer number of bodies recovered made it difficult to conceal completely the tragedy that had occurred here.

Local girl Dorothy Seaking saw the grisly evidence while hitching a ride on a U. S. Army truck.

DOROTH SEAKING: When I got out, I saw all the Americans laying dead in the back of the truck to be carried into the field to be buried.

PORTER: Today, that field is unmarked as the initial resting place for the dead Americans. On the beach there stands a monument put up by the American military, but it thanks local residents for making way for the practice invasions. No mention is made of those who died. That's why local hotel manager Ken Small paid $5,000 to salvage the old Sherman tank as a memorial to the American dead.

KEN SMALL: They did lose their lives, and they do deserve some sort of memorial to them. There're plenty in Normandy.

PORTER: On D-Day, the remaining units of the 4th Infantry Division fought their way ashore at Utah Beach on the Normandy Coast of France. Surprisingly, casualties were light, only about a tenth the number killed in the secret ill-fated rehearsal landing that terrible night off Salcombe Sands.

Don Porter, NBC News, South Devon.

CBS SATURDAY EVENING NEWS
CBS TV 6:30 PM MAY 26

D-Day Anniversary

BOB SCHIEFFER: The second invasion of Normandy is in full swing. Thousands of Americans, now in their sixties, are returning to the beaches they first saw when most were barely out of high school.

John Blackstone has our report.

JOHN BLACKSTONE: In Normandy these days, it seems that grass is being cut everywhere, around the ruined German bunkers, down the narrow country lanes, getting ready for ceremonies commemorating the 40th anniversary of D-Day, getting ready for more veterans to return than have ever returned before.

After 40 years, retirement has finally given them time to make the trip. Moreover, many realize they don't have much longer to visit the battlefields of their youth.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Are the people here from the Utah beachhead?

TOUR GUIDE: Yes, sir. This cemetery was the permanent site chosen for the Normandy area.

BLACKSTONE: The veterans who fought their way ashore here 40 years ago may well not recognize the place come this June 6th. Utah Beach is changing, getting ready to greet presidents and royalty with more fanfare than it's ever greeted veterans.

Workers are building shelters on the sand dunes to protect the heads of state from wind, rain and blowing sand. The American government has erected a new memorial just in time for President Reagan's visit. Security along the beach is tightening in anticipation of the anniversary extravaganza, which will feature seven heads of state, including the Queen of England, the Presidents of the United States and France.

The man who has organized D-Day commemorations since 1945 says only one thing is being left out: the veterans.

RAYMOND TRIBOULET: You will have [word unintelligible] services and great difficulty for the veterans to be there.

BLACKSTONE: The American soldiers Normandy remembers best, however, are the thousands who never left. The same military cemetery that President Reagan will visit on June 6th, French schoolchilden visited last weekend. Normandy does not need anniversaries to remember.

John Blackstone, CBS News, Omaha Beach.

SCHIEFFER: Some men who served ont he other side during World War II for Nazi Germany are also returning to the scene of their wartime experiences, except they were POWs who spent most of the war in Louisiana.

David Dick has that story.

DAVID DICK: They came home to Ruston, Louisiana after 40 years, Otto, Rudolf, Hubert and Hans, who had fought with Rommel in Africa. They were taken prisoner and brought here to northwestern Louisiana to pick cotton until the war was over. Camp Ruston, once a WAC training base, became one of five POW camps in Louisiana. Only two of the original barracks remain here where more than 3,000 prisoners were confined. About 400,000 German POWs were held throughout the United States. Under the Geneva Convention, POWs were sent to climates similar to the ones where they were captured. Africa Corps prisoners were sent to Louisiana.

Otto Dietz and Hans Gubler

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were crewmen aboard the captured German submarine 505. Pete Sterling was aboard the U. S. Carrier Quadalcanal which towed in the 505.

PETE STERLING: We let you down on the elevator and turned the salt water hoses on.

DICK: The crew of the sub was secretly confined to keep Hitler from knowing that the Nazi naval code had also been captured with the submarine. Hans Gubler said after three years on the sub, life at Camp Ruston was like a vacation.

The German and U. S. prisoners of war met here on a common ground of pleasant memories. Time seemed to have blotted out any pain.

MARY SNELLING: I knew they were the enemy, but they got to be personal friends.

OTTO FERNHOLZ: I was 12 years old when Hitler came to power. And we were made to believe that all he did is right.

EDMUND ELTIFE: Oh, I'm not mad about anything. Hell, no. The war's over; let's forget about it.

MAN: And welcome back home.

DICK: A day of many ironies. Former German prisoners of war given the keys to the city of Ruston, Louisiana where once the gates were all locked.

[Germans singing "Don't Fence Me In."]

DICK: And on the very concrete slab where some of them had been fenced in, there was, 40 years later, a picnic in their honor, given by the people of Ruston.

Before they departed this time with their wives who had accompanied them on this sentimental journey, the former prisoners sang German folk songs.

David Dick, CBS News, Ruston, Louisiana.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS NBC TV
6:30 PM MAY 28

Anniversary of D-Day

JOHN PALMER: Forty years ago this week, the United States and its allies were planning furiously for the invasion of France, D-Day June 6th, 1944. If successful, D-Day could break Nazi Germany's domination of Europe. A lot was at stake and the element of surprise was essential. Tonight, in the first of this series of reports on D-Day, Jim Bittermann looks at the planning that made the invasion a success.

RADIO BROADCAST: Allied naval forces, supported by strong air forces began landing allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France.

JIM BITTERMANN: From Portsmouth and Weymouth, Dartmouth, Shorham, and South Hampton they came, in ships that went less than six miles an hour, in planes that did ever 200 -- 176,000 men, all of whom had to arrive on time, in the right location, in the course of a single day, the most complicated military operation in history. All needed bullets, cigarettes, hershey bars, six and a quarter pounds of rations per man, per day. And while there were some flaws in the attempt, the planning, coordination, and organization of D-Day was so classic, military experts still regard the occasion with awe.

JAY LUVAAS: We landed on D-Day 200 trainloads of troops in the American sector alone. In the next two weeks, we landed enough vehicles to have formed a double column from Pittsburg to Chicago. Now that's planning.

BITTERMANN: It was a Lieutenant Colonel named Wedemeyer, who had been working on the country's battle planning even before Congress declared war. Now his plan became the organizing structure for tooling up America, and for the eventual invasion of France.

GEN. ALBERT C. WEDEMEYER: It was the industrial power of the United States that made it possible to be so aggressive in this war.

BITTERMANN: Car plants churned out tanks, upholstery shops made parachutes, and the south of England became a huge military parking lot. American industry united to prcduce a single product, victory. Wedemeyer's plan called for the invasion of Europe in 1943, but the British convinced Roosevelt that troops be detailed off on other campaigns until 1944, until it was sure the allies could be ready.

RADIO BROADCAST: The Russian juggernaut is rolling along with breathtaking speed as they.

BITTERMANN: The delay of that year permitted the Soviet Army to find their strength. They drove through Eastern Europe toward Berlin. Wedemeyer insists to this day that if D-Day had been launched a year earlier, as he and other American planners had argued, Eastern Europe would not now be under Soviet domination.

GEN. WEDEMEYER: From a strategic viewpoint, we did not win that war. We were fighting to substitute for one philosophy of life, our own. We did not think that we won the war in that sense.

BITTERMANN: Many historians disagree with Wedemeyer that the allied landings here on the beaches of France could possibly have been staged a year earlier. There was, they say, simply not enough time to organize.

It was very likely the largest

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invasion force the world will ever know. Involved were two million servicemen, 6500 ships, 10,000 planes.

GEN. WEDEMEYER: They did about what we expected them to do. You got American guts, and grit, and courage, and planning ability and stick-to-it-ness. I was confident that we could do it.

BITTERMANN: Jim Bittermann, NBC News, Normandy.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS NBC TV
6:30 PM MAY 29

D-Day Anniversary: Part II

TOM BROKAW: The 40th anniversary of D-Day is a week from tomorrow, June 6th, the greatest military invasion in history, not perfect certainly, flawed in many ways, but for the allies ultimately successful. Afterall, it changed the course of the war. It was the beginning of the end for Germany.

When the two armies met in northern France, eventually two million men were involved in the fight. Obviously some made more of a difference than others. Tonight, in the second of a series of reports on D-Day, Jim Bittermann on two Generals, one German, the other American.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT: We know that by thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

JIM BITTERMANN: They were less complicated times. Americans marched off to battle as if they had a God given right to win. And indeed, looking back across those Normandy beaches, whether it was destiny or just good luck, on D-Day the breaks did fall to the allies. There was the weather, the German intelligence failures, the infighting among Hitler's officers, all of which benefitted the allied commanders.

And there was the incredible stroke of fortune that in Normandy on D-Day one German General was not there and one American was. The German was Erwin Rommel, his country's most respected officer, a man who had repeatedly outwitted the allies with a minimum of resources.

Hitler chose Rommel to defend the most vulnerable part of his empire, the coast of France. And one resource Rommel now wanted was Panzer (?) tank divisions ready to strike the moment the inevitable allied invasion began.

In early June, as bad weather moved in, the normally cautious Rommel judged it safe to briefly return to Germany to confront Hitler about the Panzers, stopping at home to celebrate his wife's birthday. He couldn't have known he was leaving his post less than a day and a half before the invasion was to begin.

Rommel's son believes today that if his father had been at the front, he could have organized stronger opposition.

MANFRED ROMMEL: He could have made special efforts to give the, to achieve the permission of Hitler to move the tank divisions. If successful? Nobody knows.

BITTERMANN: While the allied troops faced fierce fighting on D-Day, they were not hindered by German tanks. It might have been different if the man responsible for stopping the invasion had been there when it began. But one man who was there, an unlikely American General, did make a difference. He was Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., the son of the former President. A popular man among the soldiers, but at 57 years of age he had never been in a position of command.

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Roosevelt wanted to hit the beach with the first wave of troops, arguing with his superiors that his presence would build morale. His daughter-in-law remembers how determined he was.

MRS. QUENTIN ROOSEVELT: He liked to go where the fighting, where he could be most useful in the fighting and he knew he was good at it.

BITTERMANN: Teddy got his wish, but the Navy landed him and the first Utah beach troops in the wrong place. A decision had to be made quickly. Should succeeding assault troops be redirected, or should they follow the first wave? Roosevelt, the only General on the beach gave a crucial order to keep the boats coming, an order that, in the end, helped reduce casualties.

Just a few months after D-Day, Rommel was dead. He had been implicated in the plot against Hitler and was forced to swollow poison. Not long after the invasion too, Roosevelt had died. He from a heart attack. He was buried in the ground he helped liberate.

Both men had in different ways been critical to the allied success on D-Day. In battle, a nation's fortune may depend on those who are destined to be there and those who are not.

Jim Bittermann, NBC News, Normandy.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS NBC TV
6:30 PM MAY 30

D-Day Anniversary: Part III

TOM BROKAW: When the allies invaded Europe 40 years ago on D-Day, it was a triumph of more than man and material, more than individual acts of courage. It also was a triumph of ingenuity and resourcefulness. Not everything the allies dreamed up worked, of course, but much of it did. Tonight, Jim Bittermann with another of our series of reports on D-Day, plus 40.

JIM BITTERMANN: It was this sound and a bit of ingenuity that saved hundreds of lives. As thousands of American paratroopers dropped out of the night sky early on D-Day and scattered widely across the enemey-held countryside, one of the most important items in their heavy packs was the military version of a child's cricket, landing alone in the darkness, that paratroopers felt their way along the Normandy hedgerows, finding their fellow soldiers and identifying friend from foe through the sound of the cricket. One flick had to be answered by two flicks back. And permitted the Americans to be sure they were shooting Germans and not each other.

But more than just children's toys. The allies invented a whole catalog of new equipment and clever schemes for D-Day. Some worked and some didn't. The so-called swimming tanks equipped with a flotation counter were launched improperly during the invasion. Twenty-seven of the first 32 sank like stones.

Some ideas were essential to the invasion plan, like the huge floating harbor they called Mulberry, that was constructed in England and flown to the invasion beaches. Without it, the allies would have had to capture one of the French ports, all of which the Germans strongly defended.

But some rubber tanks and planes that couldn't fly were part of the most successful D-Day invention, the elaborate and brilliant deception plan. Signal co-officer (?) Nicholas Lampos was one of those who helped pull it off.

NICHOLAS LAMPOS: We created in the minds of the German intelligence analyst a fictitious army group.

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BITTERMANN: Using fake military hardware like this, the deception experts built up an entirely phony base to trick German aerial reconnaissance. To trick German spies, a real enough General, George Patton, flew in and made some public appearances as the commander of the phantom army. He went on maneuvers with a few of his troops, but just a very few since in all only a thousand or so men were involved in the entire deception operation. Yet they fooled the Germans into thinking they were a force of nearly 400,000 men, 13 divisions.

The idea was to convince the Germans that the phony army in the east of England would lead the main thrust of the allied invasion to the port of Calais. The Germans had most of their highly mobile Panzer (?) tank divisions there and the allies wanted to make sure they would stay there.

The real invasion force came from the west of England and landed in Normandy. But the Germans had swallowed the deception plan. The enemy commanders did not move their tanks, but held them at Calais defending against an attack which would never happen by an army that didn't exist.

A Former intelligence officer says that if the deception plan had not worked, the real allied invasion would have failed in a matter of days.

HAROLD DEUTSCH: If the Germans moved what they had in the port of Calais, especially the infinitely stronger formations they had there, I think they wouldn't have had a chance.

BITTERMANN: So as strongly as Hitler defended the coasts of, what he called, his fortress Europe, as powerful as his armies were, in the end he was outwitted by the ingenuity and inventiveness of the allied planners.

Jim Bittermann, NBC News, Normandy.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
6:30 PM

NBC TV
MAY 31

D-Day Anniversary: Part IV

TOM BROKAW: Wednesday the President will be in Normandy to participate in ceremonies commemorating the 40th anniversary of D-Day, the allied invasion, and one of the places that he'll visit is Point DeHoque (?), the sheer cliffs over the English Channel. Tonight, in another of his reports on D-Day 40 years later, Jim Bittermann recounts the extraordinary story that took place there.

- JIM BITTERMANN: Forty years afterward, gathered in reunion, the aging fighters who charged the beaches of Normandy, who changed the course of World War II and, thereby, changed the course of history, might not be noticed for heroes.

But back then, any man courageous enough to step off a boat into a hail of German gunfire could hardly be less. And among the allied invaders, few were so daring, so determined as these men, the men of the Army's Second Ranger Battalion, men like Sergeant Bill Petty (?).

They trained on the coasts of England. For some, the mission would be to seize control of one of the most threatening enemy fortifications on the coast of France, Point DeHoque, a German base with six powerful long-range guns, guns easily capable of shelling the D-Day invasion fleet far out at sea, or the hundreds of thousands of men who would be struggling ashore along the landing beaches.

Two hundred twenty five men were ordered to climb the 100 foot cliffs under ememy fire and knock out the guns.

BILL PETTY (?): Well, I don't really remember thinking much when we were going in except, you know, you gotta get up there.

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BITTERMANN: The Germans fired down and the Rangers cut their ropes and pitched hand grenades at them. Dozens of Americans were killed and wounded, but the Germans could not stop the Rangers.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: All of a sudden there they were. It was overpowering. We were overpowered.

BITTERMANN: Many of the Rangers did make it up the cliff, but when they arrived the powerful canons they set out to capture were not here. The casualties though had not been in vein because when the Rangers found out, they found the big guns hidden in an apple orchard and ready to fire. A young Sergeant named Lemell sneaked past dozens of German gunners and destroyed their guns.

LEN LEMELL: You can call it cockiness, if you wish. It never occurred to us that we weren't going to be able to do it.

BITTERMANN: Sergeant Petty remembers clearly how the enemy counterattacked the tiny group of Rangers, how he was repeatedly surrounded, how one of his buddies tried to go to his rescue and got captured.

PETTY: And he said I'm going back to help Petty, and excuse me, that's gotta take some kind of man.

BITTERMANN: For more than two days without relief, the Rangers held on to Point DeHoque. When it was over, 60% of the original group had been killed, captured, or wounded. But the Rangers had saved untold numbers of men on the invasion beaches.

MAN: The success of this mission really depended on individuals being determined to carry it out, and I believe that's why it was successful.

Jim Bittermann, NBC News, Point DeHoque, France.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS NBC TV
6:30 PM JUNE 1

D-Day Anniversary: Part V

TOM BROKAW: Wednesday, President Reagan will be in Normandy for the 40th Anniversary of D-Day, and throughout his stay he'll hear remarkable stories of courage, heroism, but he may not hear the story of one American soldier who may have been the greatest single hero of that incredible military operation. Tonight, in the last of our series on D-Day, 40 years later, Jim Bittermann reports on a man whose extraordinary bravery was buried in red tape long after the war.

JIM BITTERMANN: It was a day filled with courage. G.I.'s walked straight into enemy bullets. Glider troops landed where there were no runways. Paratroopers jumped into the darkness and came down alone in enemy territory.

There were many courageous acts on D-Day, but perhaps none more so than that of a youg paratrooper from Reedsville, West Virginia named Harrison Summers. Summers' battalion was to eliminate position WXYZ, the headquarters and barracks of a Nazi coastal defense unit which threatened American landings on nearby Utah beach.

Today there are few signs of what happened here. No photographers recorded what Summers did. The only eyewitnesses are dead. But there are still a few men, like Roy Nickrent, who were here on D-Day and remember clearly Summers' courage.

ROY NICKRENT: It was a fabulous feat for one man to accomplish, fabulous, it was just almost unbelievable.

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BITTERMANN: From this house, the battalion's headquarters, Summers was ordered to lead 15 paratroopers in an attack against the enemy stronghold, where perhaps 100 or more German soldiers were protected behind the thick stone walls of local farmhouses.

The men who were assigned to help Summers were not from his unit, did not know the young Sergeant. When they seemed reluctant to follow him he decided the best way to lead was by example. Alone, he charged the first building in the barracks complex, kicked open the door and sprayed those inside with his machine gun. Four Germans fell dead and the others fled.

Summers went on to the next building and the next. He attacked five in the course of four hours, most of the time alone, kicking down doors and cleaning out the Nazi soldiers.

MAN: He didn't value his life, apparently, the way he went at it. A man couldn't do anymore than what he did.

BITTERMANN: At the end of what was almost a single-handed attack against the German barracks, 60 enemy soldiers were dead and many dozens of others had been flushed out into the open fields where they were killed or captured by advancing American units.

But the fighting moved on, and so did Summers. It wasn't until six years after the war ended that Summers was finally recognized for his heroism with a distinguished service cross. But then the Army's official historian said Summers deserved more. In a magazine article, he called Summers "the Sergeant York of World War II," and said that Summers lost out on the nation's highest military award, the medal of honor, simply because of bureaucratic errors the historian himself had made.

At reunions, Summers' buddies grumbled about how their courageous friend had been cheated. Finally, two years ago, one of them started a campaign to get Summers the medal, but the Pentagon said it needed eyewitnesses, eyewitnesses who are no long alive.

BOB O'CONNELL: The preponderance of evidence here is that Summers did this. No one questions it.

BITTERMANN: Summers, a modest man, apparently only once agreed to an interview on the subject. "We did the job we were trained to do," he said, "I don't believe in heroes." Summers' commander at the time, General Maxwell Taylor called the Summers case an injustice and last year wrote the Pentagon urging reconsideration.

MAN: This was written to the Chiefs of Staff. "The Army still has time to correct this injustice."

BITTERMANN: But last August, the Army's time ran out. Harrison Summers died of cancer. He had been one of the bravest men to land in France on D-Day, but like many soldiers, he never considered himself especially courageous, and like many others that day, his courage was never fully honored.

Jim Bittermann, NBC News, Normandy.

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL 18 May 1984 Pg. 1

1st relative visits grave 40 years after D-Day

First of a series

By Tom Mueller
Sentinel staff writer

St. James, France — Plot F, Row 7, Grave 13.

There are 4,410 graves at the Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial — a sea of white marble crosses and Stars of David marking the tombs of US soldiers who died in this area during World War II.

One small place in this huge cemetery is very important to me.

Plot F, Row 7, Grave 13 is the burial site of my uncle, Pvt. Martin J. Miller, who was plucked from the farm fields of Wisconsin by the war and died on Aug. 1, 1944, in his first day of combat. Nearly 40 years later, I became the first relative to visit his grave.

Uncle Martin certainly has not been forgotten by some of his younger brothers and sisters, who once called him "Ting" because they were too little to utter two-syllable words.

My mother, her siblings and Uncle Martin's fiancee can never erase their loss, especially that haunting day of Aug. 27, 1944, when the family received a telegram from the Army saying he had been missing since Aug. 1.

It was not until Oct. 25 that another telegram arrived saying he indeed had been killed Aug. 1. And the family had to wait until June 1945 to find out where he died — near Percy, a few miles south of St.-Lo.

While Uncle Martin's memory remained dear to their hearts, tangible reminders were largely confined to the attic.

I was born seven years after he was killed, and I had only a foggy idea of who he was. I knew he was buried "somewhere in France."

The drive here from Omaha Beach, the most famous site in the Allied invasion of Normandy, took more than two hours and went right through Percy.

The biggest problem during the drive was following the crazy pattern of road signs in the countryside and small towns. Retracing much of the same route on the way back wasn't much easier.

Uncle Martin, a 24-year-old ammunition handler in a machine gun squad in the 112th Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division, also began his journey from Omaha Beach, but there was no trip back.

Uncle Martin was born at S. 8th and Becher Sts. on Milwaukee's South Side, but his family soon moved to Dane County and he lived near Dane and Waunakee. He was drafted in 1942, trained in three states and spent his last birthday en route to Britain by ship, arriving there Oct. 18, 1943.

His division of about 25,000 men did not come to France until July 23 to 25, nearly seven weeks after the D-Day invasion by the world's largest armada.

Uncle Martin was among an eventual total of about 2 million Allied invaders of Normandy.

His division landed at Omaha Beach and made its way toward St.-Lo. during the time of the "breakout," heavy fighting in which American troops west of St.-Lo tried to drive through the enemy defenses and into the rest of France.

The city of Coutances was liberated July 28 and Avranches a week later. Reading that in a dry, historical recounting of the war sent a chill down my spine.

In between those two accomplishments came the start of fighting for the 28th Infantry Division and the end for Uncle Martin and many of his comrades.

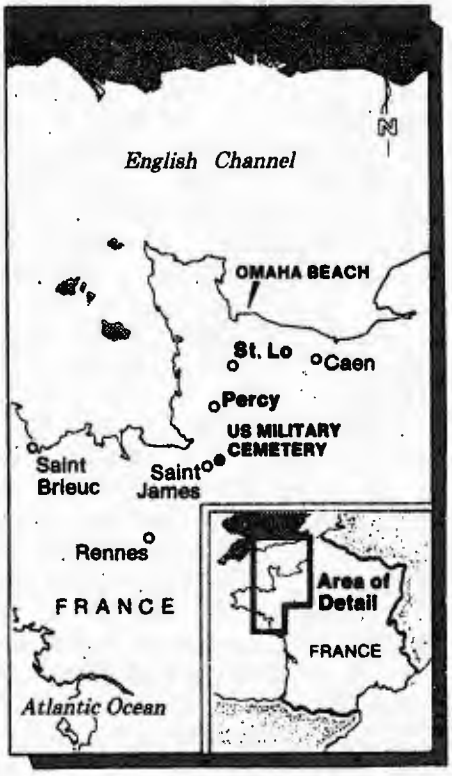
Those who survived marched victoriously in the streets of Paris a few weeks later.

Milwaukee Sentinel photographer Ernie Anheuser and I arrived at the US-operated cemetery in a downpour, the only rain encountered in 14 hours of traveling that day. But at this solemn site and for this family reunion, even the rain was solemn in its own way, falling heavily but quietly.

Cemetery Superintendent Donald L. Davis, a native of Michigan who married a French woman and remained in this area after the war, led us through the rows of tombstones.

He suddenly stopped and pointed downward, and 40 years of separation of the Miller family ended.

I instinctively wrapped an arm around the tombstone, much as I would for Uncle Martin if he were alive and I had not seen him for years. For several minutes I just could not let go.



—By a Sentinel artist

I carefully planted two pieces of Wisconsin — US flags from the St. Francis-Bay View American Legion Post 180 at 2860 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee, near Uncle Martin's birthplace, and from the Oelschlaeger-Dallmann American Legion Post 434, 9327 S. Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, near my home.

One was left in France; the other I brought home to become a treasured family relic for future generations.

I thought of Uncle Martin's family and the paln it must have felt at his loss. I thought of his mother, Anna, who died in 1961, and his father, John, who died in 1968.

I thought of the oldest child, Flor-

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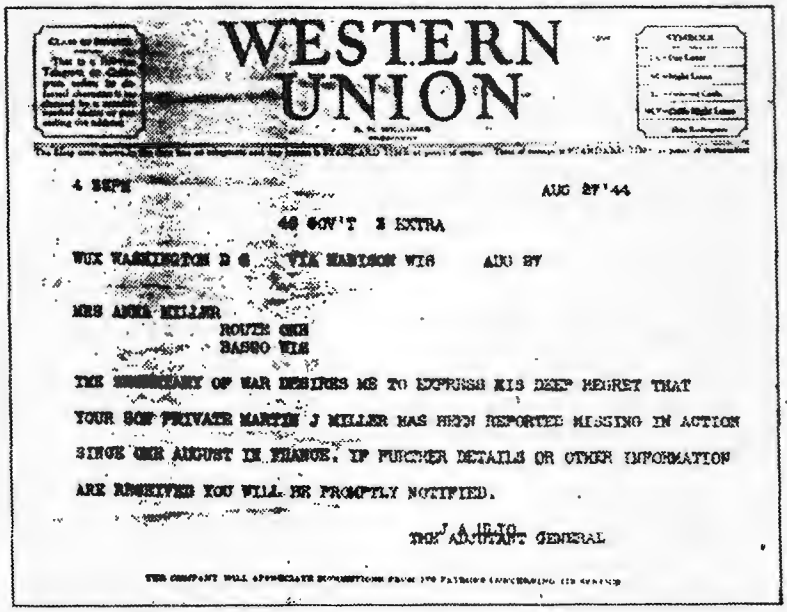
Pvt. Martin J. Miller died fighting near Percy, France, during World War II.

—Sentinel photo



WESTERN UNION

4 SEPT AUG 27 '44

40 GOV'T 2 EXTRA

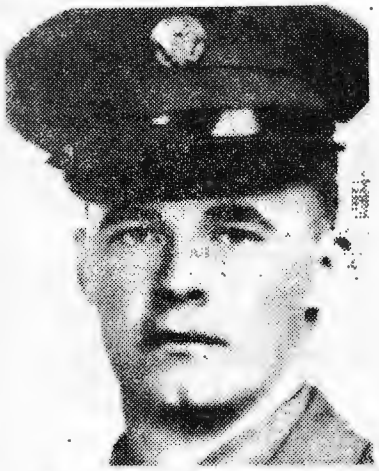
WUX WASHINGTON D C VIA MADISON WIS AUG 27

MRS ANNA MILLER
ROUTE ONE
BASCO WIS

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON PRIVATE MARTIN J MILLER HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION SINCE ONE AUGUST IN FRANCE. IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



The parents of Martin J. Miller (above) were sent a telegram (left) that reported him missing in action. A later telegram stated he had died.

GRAVE...Continued

ence, my mother. I also thought of his younger siblings, Robert, John, Gerald, Herbert, Caroline, Pauline and Genevieve.

I also thought about all the weddings, graduations and other family events that Uncle Martin would have attended. Besides me, he has 32 other nieces and nephews and 42 great-nieces and great-nephews.

I also thought about how much Memorial Day would mean in the future, now that I could personally feel our family's loss.

And I thought about how Uncle Martin is buried nearly 4,000 miles from home, but how this actually is like home.

This area of France is much like rural Dane County with cows roaming the fields and steep hills alternating with flat valleys. Normandy's famous hedgerows remind me very much of the fencerows where I used to go rabbit-hunting.

Just before leaving, I made a surprising discovery.

Buried a stone's throw from Uncle Martin is a Sgt. Kenneth C. Miller from Wisconsin. He was in the same regiment as Uncle Martin and was killed on the same day.

Perhaps the two Millers knew each other and joked about their similarities.

Kenneth C. Miller probably is an uncle, too, as are thousands of other soldiers buried here.

I salute them all.

He stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live, and grow, and increase its blessings. Freedom lives, and through it, he lives — in a way that humbles the undertakings of most men.

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in a citation sent to Uncle Martin's family and others who lost a member in the war.

Tuesday: "Bloody Omaha."

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL 29 May 1984 Pg. 1

Omaha Beach still forbidding 40 years after D-Day

Second of a series

By Tom Mueller
Sentinel staff writer

Omaha Beach, France — This sandy beach, site of one of the bloodiest episodes in US military history, still can be a frightful place 40 years after D-Day.

A recent visit at 6:45 a.m., just 15 minutes after the H-Hour start of the invasion, was plagued by an icy north wind of at least 40 mph straight off the foggy English Channel.

The vicious blasts made the ski jacket that kept me warm for most of the Milwaukee winter totally inadequate. A plan to walk across the low-tide sands to the edge of the water was quickly discarded.

At the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial on top of one of the bluffs where so many Americans died to take the site from the Germans, the roar of the long, rolling waves was deafening.

But the sound, no doubt, was little more than a pin drop in comparison to the roar of the fighting June 6, 1944, when nearly 5,000 ships and 200,000 troops — the world's largest armada — began the invasion on the beaches code-named Omaha, Utah, Gold, Sword and Juno after a heavy naval and air bombardment.

Omaha and Utah were the invasion beaches for the American troops. This beach was by far the worst scene and earned the nickname "Bloody Omaha."

The invaders — whatever their nationalities or military jobs — earned the love of the people of Normandy, France and Europe.

"Vive les liberateurs. And all the people in Normandy think as me," said Jacqueline Sanchez of nearby Bayeux as other French people in the hotel where she works nodded in agreement.

Sanchez, whose father was Spanish, was 2 years old at the time of D-Day and remembers nothing about it. But she said that as she grew up, she developed a deep appreciation for the Allied efforts.

"You Americans have done a hell of a lot to free Europe for the second time," said Gerard Platerink of Voorburg, the Netherlands, who also was staying at the hotel. Platerink, 73, played a role in D-Day — he was a crewman on a Dutch ship helping troops land.

"It's marvelous what people of many countries did for us," said Jean-Michel Mercier, of Montceau-les-Mines in east-central France, during a visit to the cemetery here. "Perhaps we would not be here" as a free people if they did not help, he added.

At Omaha Beach, the aerial bombardment missed its target by three miles in cloudy weather. The heavy naval barrage from battleships, destroyers and heavy cruisers generally left the big German guns on the hills untouched. The invaders were not aware that a tough, experienced German division had been sent to the area just days earlier.

Before fighting the Germans, the troops of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions had to battle seasickness, waves that swamped landing craft and amphibious tanks, and mines and other obstacles placed in the water by the Germans.

Of 32 amphibious tanks in the 1st Division sent ashore, 27 sank.

Those troops lucky enough to even reach shore faced about 200 yards of obstacle-strewn sand. Amid the heavy German fire from guns, mortars and artillery, the heavy seas and confusion, many units landed far from their designated targets or without vitally needed gear.

They were sitting ducks for the German guns on the bluffs.

To stand at the cemetery's wall on the bluff and imagine the battle scene is horrifying. The beach is right there, not much different from the scenes on some hills along Milwaukee's lakefront. The Germans at the top had total commmand of the area.

About halfway down the bluff stands a German pillbox that held a huge gun which must have accounted for hundreds of casualties. The thick concrete pillbox is pockmarked by bullet and shell holes.

At the bottom of the path down the hill, the scene can be viewed from the eyes of the American soldiers.

The brushy bluffs look very steep and forbidding without any of the armaments of D-Day — mines, barbed wire, machine guns and heavier weapons.

As James Jones said in his book "WWII," it was not hard to imagine:

"The terror and total confusion, men screaming or sinking silently under the water, tanks sinking as the crews drowned inside, landing craft going up as a direct hit took them, or grating ashore to discharge their live cargo into the already scrambled mess, officers trying to get their men together, medics trying to find shelter for the wounded, until finally out of the welter a certain desperate order began to emerge."

By the end of the day, the invaders at Omaha were about one mile inland. The attack left an estimated 2,500 Americans dead, wounded or missing.

Allied casualties in all five beach assaults and in the paratrooper landings were more than 10,000 dead, wounded or missing. That included 1,465 Americans dead, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing and 26 captured.

When President Reagan visits this cemetery June 6 as part of the D-Day anniversary commemoration, he will see the graves of 9,386 soldiers in perfectly straight rows that stretch literally as far as the eye can see. The bodies of about 1,000 of their colleagues were returned to the United States after the war.

It takes several minutes to walk the length of one of the rows, and a total of 133 graves are counted in that line.

A check of a fraction of the cemetery yielded the names of several Wisconsin soldiers. The gravestones

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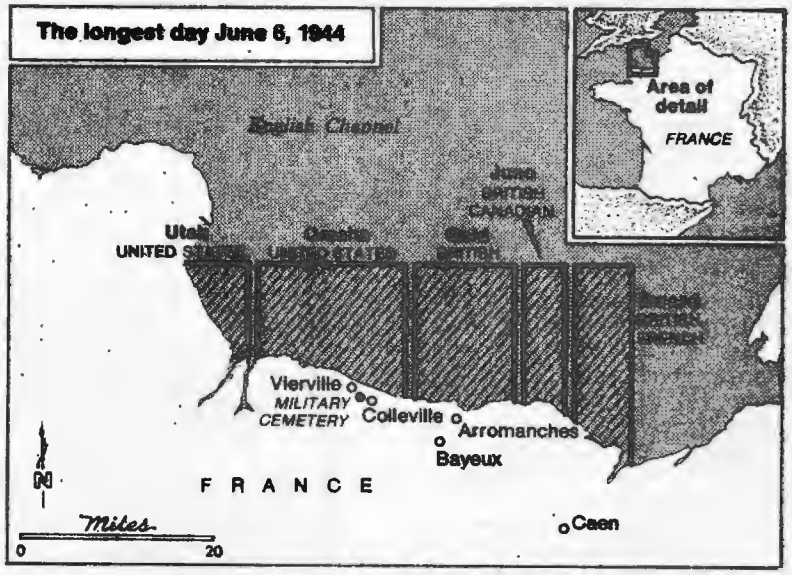
OMAHA...Continued

and cemetery records do not list hometowns.

The names I saw and the dates the men were killed were: Pfc. Norton A. Feierday, 82nd Airborne Division, who died on D-Day; Pvt. Seraphim J. Basille, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, June 23; Staff Sgt. Eugene J. Milot, 328th Bomb Squadron, June 24; Pvt. Verlaine B. Alton, 505th Parachute Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, June 21.

Pfc. Edward M. Spikula, 327th Glider Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, June 17; T. Sgt. John Stopka, 28th Infantry, 8th Divison, July 14; Staff Sgt. Leonard A. Budnik, 412th Bomber Squadron, 95th Bomber Group, July 10, 1943; and 2nd Lt. Eddie L. May, 1349th Engineering General Services Regiment, May 26, 1945.

One of the 1,557 names inscribed on the walls of the Garden of the Missing is Pvt. Douglas F. Brady of the 262nd Infantry, 66th Division.



Those buried at Omaha Beach include a father and son side by side, and 33 sets of brothers, also buried next to each other.

Wednesday: Pointe du Hoc.

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL 30 May 1984 Pg. 1.

'Insurmountable' point was taken

Third of a series

By Tom Mueller
Sentinel staff writer

Pointe du Hoc, France — "It can't be done. Three old women with brooms could keep the Rangers from climbing that cliff."

A naval intelligence officer made that comment about Pointe du Hoc a few months before D-Day, June 6, 1944.

The point is a narrow piece of ground that has 100-foot cliffs on three sides and was strongly protected on the fourth side. It was considered to be the strongest German position on the Normandy coast.

Military intelligence had said the point harbored huge 155mm guns with a range of 14 miles that could make mincemeat of the invaders on Omaha and Utah Beaches, where US troops in the world's largest armada landed on D-Day.

The naval officer's comment, made during planning for the assault, is reported in "Rudder's Rangers," a book by Ronald L. Lane.

Rudder — Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder of the 2nd US Army Ranger Battalion — later said he thought Gen. Omar Bradley, commander of the US operation at Omaha and Utah, was just trying to scare him during briefings for the assault.

Bradley later commented, "No soldier in my command has ever been wished a more difficult task" than the Rangers had at Pointe du Hoc.

Today a visitor to the scene of the assault is likely to see laughing, shouting French schoolchildren running from shell crater to shell crater and along the extensive network of trenches and bunkers constructed by the Germans.

A huge observation post that offers a 180-degree view of the coast stands a few feet from the edge of the cliff, and on top of that post is a monument to the 230 "heroic Ranger commandos."

D-Day Continued

D-Day ...Continued

There is no way to see the bottom of the cliff in front of the post, but the view down the coast to either side looks frightening enough. It's a sheer cliff with a narrow beach and pounding waves at the bottom.

After a soaking 12-mile boat ride through high seas, the Rangers faced this natural hurdle and plenty of man-made obstacles. The Germans hurled hand grenades and rocks over the edge, cut the ropes the Rangers were using to climb and fired at them with machine guns and other weapons.

Still, the Rangers were up the cliffs in a matter of minutes on their rocket-fired ropes and rope ladders, which anchored them to the top of the cliff.

Then they received two shocks:

- The big 155mm guns that were supposed to be on the point were nowhere to be seen. They were found later in an apple orchard and destroyed.
- No reinforcements or supplies were available for the badly depleted and outnumbered Rangers. They had to hold the point for two days under heavy counterattack by the Germans.

One of Rudder's three company commanders was Capt. Otto Masny, now of the Town of Delafield.

Masny led F Company and received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions at Pointe du Hoc.

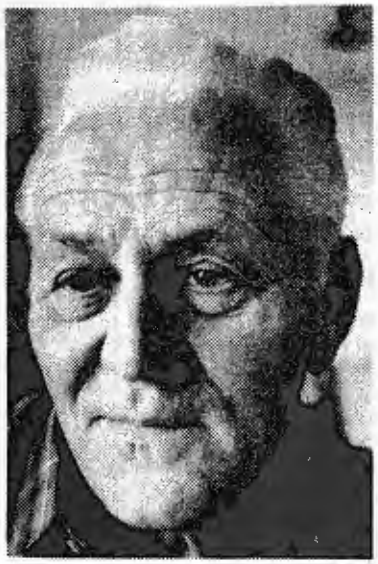
Other Wisconsin Rangers included Pvt. Sigurd Sundby, 1609 S. Sherwood Dr., New Berlin, and Sgt. Francis J. Pacyga of rural Rice Lake.

The three were interviewed by telephone.

Masny, 66, a retired machinery salesman, said the Rangers' British-built assault vessels had gotten lost during the journey from the mother ship 12 miles out in the English Channel.

He said the assault vessels wound up going parallel to the coast for about 30 minutes and took much fire from the Germans.

A naval bombardment of the point had ended on schedule about 6:30 a.m., when the Rangers were supposed to have gotten to the beach. Instead, they were about 30 minutes late, and the Germans had time to recover.



Otto Masny

Had the Rangers gotten to the point on schedule and maintained the element of surprise, Masny said, "It would have been a real easy operation. All we would have needed was a Trojan Horse with wings."

Asked how the cliffs could be climbed so fast, Masny chuckled and said, "You have an incentive."

As to what went through his mind when he reached the top and discovered that the guns were not there, Masny said: "I can't recall. Sure you're frightened, but the adrenaline was flowing."

The Rangers didn't "understand why the 155mm guns had never been put into use," Masny said.

He said the heavily outnumbered Rangers were supposed to have been relieved in four hours, and that destroyers that provided cover for two days "were the only things that saved us."

Masny was wounded on the first and second days of fighting, once in the right arm and once in the right armpit. He spent the rest of the war fighting in the French region of Brittany and in Belgium and Germany.

When the Rangers were finally relieved, only 90 of the 230 that left the mother ship were able to fight, and many of them had been wounded.

Sundby, a member of D Company, was among those who weren't injured.

A 63-year-old a native of Milwaukee, Sundby now is involved in construction work. He said he "had a lot of close calls" during the fighting.

He had been in the merchant marine before being drafted and had no problems with seasickness during the trip in the channel, unlike many of his colleagues.

But "our boat was ruptured and leaking bad" from the waves of 3 to 5 feet, he said.

Coming off the landing craft, he went into water over his head, and then fell after getting 45 feet up the cliff, which he described as mostly claylike soil.

Sundby was later wounded while fighting in Germany.

Pacyga, 65, a retired bricklayer and farmer, was wounded in the left arm June 8 and also was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge.

Of the D-Day assault, he said: "I've forgotten a lot of it. A lot of it I want to forget."

One thing that no one can forget was best said by William K. Van Hoy of Milwaukie, Ore., as he visited Pointe du Hoc earlier this month.

"We lose so many good people in these wars. It's a bummer," said Van Hoy, who arrived in Normandy about a week after D-Day as a replacement in the 83rd Infantry Division.

Thursday: The paratroopers.

Spire was a trap for paratrooper

Fourth of a series

By Tom Mueller

Sentinel staff writer

Ste.-Mere-Eglise, France — Parts of the church in this little town date back to the 11th century.

But what happened nearly 40 years ago in the pre-dawn hours of June 6, 1944, made the church more famous than anything that had happened in the previous nine centuries.

This town was the site of one of the enduring images of D-Day: One of more than 17,000 American and British paratroopers who landed in Normandy became snagged on the church's tower and played dead while German soldiers slaughtered many of his helpless colleagues as they came to earth.

Another paratrooper, Pvt. Robert W. Landl, a native of Madison, Wis., who now lives in Middleton, landed a block away from the church and was not wounded.

Ste.-Mere-Eglise, which has a population of about 1,300 and is not even on some maps today, was the first town to be liberated by the invaders.

As churches go, this one is very small and the tower doesn't look imposing until you stand directly under it. Then you can get a good idea of the plight of Pvt. John Steele of the 82nd Airborne Division's 505th Regiment.

Residents had been fighting a house fire in the town's square and were shocked to suddenly hear and see planes roaring overhead and paratroopers drifting into nearby trees, onto buildings and some right into the blaze.

German soldiers, watching the townspeople at the post-curfew fire, turned their guns on the helpless American paratroopers.

Steele's parachute snagged on the steeple and he dangled helplessly below the eaves.

He played dead while a machine gunner a few yards from him on the tower and other German troops below fired away at the paratroopers. After two hours, Steele was noticed and taken captive by the Germans.

Steele died in 1969.

Robert W. Landl

While many of the paratroopers were

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
31 May 1984 Pg. 1

slaughtered, the Germans later pulled out. Troops from the 505th arrived near dawn to find only a few snipers and raised the US flag over the town.

The Americans had to hold the town against a three-day counterattack by German troops and artillery.

Inside, the church is dark and looks and smells fully as old as it is, although part of the altar area is being refurbished. The floor is made up of huge stones, making it hard to walk in places.

The church has a stained glass window funded by members of the 82nd Airborne. The window shows the Virgin Mary and Christ Child looking down on her city as paratroopers land. Its many scenes include insignias of the paratroopers and glider troops.

Nearby, a museum with a roof that is made to look like a parachute commemorates the landing. It includes a British glider and a C-47 transport that carried paratroopers over the English Channel.

During a telephone interview in Wisconsin, Landl, 62, who is recovering from a stroke, said he drifted right over the church and saw that "our guys were getting chopped up down there."

He said he saw the parachute snagged on the steeple and thought, "Oh my God, I'm going to be up there with him."

Landl, a member of F Company of the 82nd Airborne's 505th Regiment, said that with so many Germans firing, "why they didn't hit me I'll never know."

He landed at the base of a wall and his parachute blew over it, but he quickly pulled it back.

He said he went down a street where there was "a lot of sporadic fighting," and then he and another trooper made their way to a defensive roadblock on a highway.

Landl was not wounded, but left Normandy after six days because he came down with malaria that he picked up while the 82nd was serving in Sicily.

Another of the 13,000 US paratroopers was Orville J. Collins of Denmark, Wis., who now is 65 and a retired dairy farmer. Collins was a signal corporal in Company A of the 502nd Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division.

He landed in a small farm field near Foucarville, a few miles from Ste.-Mere-Eglise, at 1:05 a.m. Foucarville was a very important target because it controlled all movement on the main road between Utah Beach, one of the two places where American troops would attack around dawn. Enemy tanks would have to use that road to get to the beach.

Unlike some of the paratroopers, Collins was not isolated from his colleagues. But even separation would have been better than the fate of some of his buddies — 18 of them landed in the English Channel and drowned.

The planes carrying others were too low after

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Page 8, Part 1 MILWAUKEE SENTINEL Thursday, May 31, 1984

Father Pierre Ferey stood outside the church in Ste.-Mere-Eglise, France, where an American paratrooper snagged on the tower and played dead on June 6, 1944. The town was the first in Normandy to be liberated by the invaders.

SPIRE...Continued

trying to evade heavy anti-aircraft fire, and dozens of paratroopers died when they hit ground before their chutes opened.

Collins said in a telephone interview that he could hear his buddies in nearby brush and that there were six to eight in an area of about 200 yards.

He recalled that five curious cattle in the pasture "came over and were smelling around," casting frightening shadows in flares sent up by the Germans.

"It was as bright as day," he said.

The cows were machine-gunned by the Germans, while he ducked into one of Normandy's ever-present hedgerows for safety and formed up with other paratroopers.

Collins said that by dawn, 10 to 15 troopers had a group of Germans in a cemetery pinned down but did not have big enough weapons to do the job — just .30-caliber machine guns and mortars.

Then the 4th Division came in with 75mm recoilless rifles and 80mm mortars and blasted the cemetery, which contained trees with trunks 2 feet in diameter.

"If you ever saw a mess that was it," Collins said. "All that was left of the trees was splinters."

About 150 to 200 Germans, plus 8 to 10 French girls and women, were forced to surrender about 6 p.m., he said.

Collins was wounded on June 12, hit by shrapnel in the left shoulder and left kneecap. The shelling killed two fellow paratroopers. He recovered in Britain and later fought in the Netherlands and at the Battle of the Bulge, where he was captured on Christmas Eve.

Friday: Veterans recall the battle.

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Vets recall their roles in D-Day

Last of a series

By Dean Jensen

June 6, 1944.

It was, in the words of German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, "der langsta tag" — "the longest day."

It was a day when the Normandy beaches of German-occupied France were attacked by thousands of warships and planes from the United States and Allied countries.

It was the day when, at long last, the Allied forces turned the corner in World War II and began the march to liberate Europe from Hitler's armies.

Thousands of Americans were killed in the fierce fighting during the landing operation. But, the Allies established Normandy as a beachhead from which they were able to march through Europe and overtake the Nazi armies.

For many of the American servicemen who took part in the invasion at Normandy, D-Day was indeed the longest day, enduring in some form for 40 years even to the present.

These are the recollections of some of the servicemen:

Norbert G. Henn, 71, Elkhorn:

I was in the Navy and worked as a diesel motor operator on an LST (landing ship tank), one of the ships that transported military personnel and equipment.

We had a company of soldiers from the Army's 29th Division aboard our ship when orders came for us to move the troops to Omaha Beach. Because sleeping space on the ship was so limited, the Navy men had to share their bunks with the Army troops. We slept in shifts. I got to know the GI who slept in my bunk when I wasn't there. And, when the orders came for us to transport the soldiers to Omaha Beach, I went to talk to him and wish him good luck. He had been sleeping and as he got out of bed to get dressed and prepare for the landing, this GI said, "Tonight my old lady will be a widow."

As it turned out, all but five members of the troops we had aboard were killed in the invasion, but the guy who had used my bed survived it, although he was badly wounded.

Hardly a day goes by when I don't have vivid recollections of the experience. I remember seeing dead bodies floating in the water all around the ship. From the ship, you could look out through binoculars and see bodies stacked up like cordwood on Omaha Beach.

Paul J. Rutka, 78, Hayward:

I was assigned to an engineers' batallion in the Army and part of a demolition brigade that was in the initial wave of servicemen who made the invasion at Omaha Beach. I was 38 years old and it was my first experience in combat. The Germans were dug in behind every obstacle on the beach and were able to shoot at us from almost every angle. There are some things you don't forget. There was a sergeant who had been hit in the foot by a sniper and I helped drag him behind a brick seawall to protect him from any further gunfire. His foot was a mess and, within just minutes after he got hit, swelled to unbelievable size. We couldn't remove his boot by undoing the laces. We had to cut away the boot with our knives.

Arthur F. Schmidt, 76, Kaukauna:

We landed on Utah Beach just at daybreak. I was in the Army infantry. As we went ashore, I saw a dead man, an American paratrooper, in the water. It was a grim sight.

On land, it seemed as though there were Germans firing at us from behind every hedgerow and from behind every tree. All hell had broken loose on the beach. The paratroopers were dropping from the skies and a lot of them were killed by gunfire before they ever hit the ground. The Germans were pouring mortars at all of the French farmhouses. Everywhere you looked, there were cows that had been blown up.

With a buddy, I dug into a hole and we remained there at night, with each of us taking turns and watching out to make sure no Germans were sneaking up on us. There was no way to sleep either night or day because of the constant pounding of big shells.

James Paris, 62, Three Lakes:

I was aboard the Navy's USS Tide. It was a mine sweeper and the first ship sent into waters off the coast of France in advance of the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

Our job was to sweep the waters for mines that had been dropped in the water by the Germans so American ships carrying soldiers and equipment could get near the shoreline without being blown up.

We started sweeping for mines at about 3:30 in the morning of June 6 and after we had swept out about 16 square miles of water, the American ships started bringing in men for the great invasion.

On the night of June 6, after the invasion began, Germans planes dropped more mines into the waters and, once again, our ship had the job of clearing the waters so more American troops could come in on personnel carriers.

I was in the forward engine room of the USS Tide on the morning of June 7 when, at 9:31, there was a tremendous explosion that lifted our 190-foot ship three feet out of the water and broke it clean in half.

We had hit a 2,500-pound German mine. The three other guys in the engine room with me were killed. I had both knees broken in the explosion. My face, back and hands were badly burned.

I managed somehow to crawl out on deck. I jumped off the ship and was fished out of the water by a PT boat. The USS Tide sunk in just seven minutes and half of the 115 enlisted men and 15 officers who were aboard died.

The PT boat took me to another ship and when I got aboard the vessel, I was in such a state of shock and so crazed, that I asked one of the medics to shoot me to take me out of my misery. They gave me morphine instead.

I was hospitalized for about a year. I could never blot the horror of that day out of my mind. I was crippled for life as a result of the injuries and I have to wear leg braces to get around.

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Allies Remember and Celebrate 40th Anniversary of Normandy Invasion

by Millard Barger
and Chris Meyer

Few have forgotten that the US and British navies worked together to land Allied troops at Normandy on June 6, 1944. Ceremonies in Europe and the US this month commemorate that historic invasion. Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr. is representing the President of the United States at ceremonies throughout Europe.

President Reagan, Britain's Queen Elizabeth, Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, King Olaf of Norway and French President François Mitterrand will attend ceremonies at Omaha and Utah beaches, where the First and Fourth US Armies landed on D-Day.

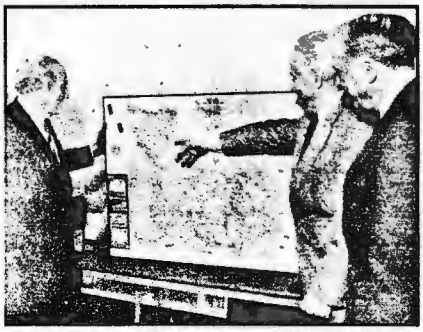
Code named "Operation Overlord," and universally recognized as "D-Day," the assault on the Atlantic Wall by American, British, Canadian, Polish, and French troops on German forces occupying France was the largest amphibious operation ever conducted. Over 180,000 troops crossed the English Channel by boat, aircraft and gliders to land along a 50-mile stretch of French cliffs and coarse sand at the start of what became an 11-month Allied campaign to free western Europe.

"Normandy was definitely an example of all elements being put together to form a team to achieve a daring venture," says Army Lt. Gen. David E. Grange, who chairs the Defense Department's coordinating committee for WW II historical observances. A combat infantry soldier in Italy during the Normandy invasion, Grange landed in southern France during Operation "Torch."

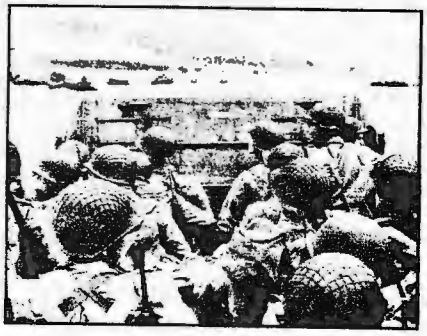
Only 14 of the men who fought in WW II are still on active duty. Among them, only Grange and General John W. Vessey, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were on the front lines.

"If you go to Omaha Cemetery," Grange told *AFJ* to highlight the international significance of this year's ceremonies, "something like 10,000 Servicemen are sleeping there. That's the equivalent of a light division. It's mute testimony that Americans are good friends and stick to their commitments, and the world should take notice of it."

(At *AFJ*, the thought runs that the 40th observance of D-Day could [and should] have some additional significance. The US defense budget is again being debated—and cut—on Capitol Hill. Those who are so eager to reduce the dollar cost of deterrence today may want to consider the past costs—in money and *lives* on June 6th, 1944—of a failed deterrent.)



Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC), Andrew Peters, executive vice president of Michelin Tire Corp., and Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh Jr. view a map of the Normandy invasion printed by Michelin, in honor of the 40th anniversary of D-Day. Sen. Thurmond landed behind the lines with the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment on the first day of the Normandy invasion.



American assault troops—minutes before landing on the northern coast of France 6 June 1944.

The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, and Italy will also remember the final months of the war with events scheduled through the end of the year. At Bastogne, for instance, Marsh will have with him retired Army Lt. Gen. Harry W.O. Kinnard, who was the 101st Abn. Div.'s chief of staff during the Battle of the Bulge. Kinnard is the one who suggested replying to the German surrender demand, "Nuts!"

"D-Day laid the foundation for the Alliance [NATO] which is still in effect," says Grange. "That spirit of cooperation has persevered through various trials and tribulations over several decades."

The 40th anniversary of "the longest day" has also sparked something of an entrepreneurial spirit. *The Washington Post* reported last month that an enterprising Frenchman had purchased two tons of Normandy beach, or a reasonable facsimile, to sell as small bags of souvenir sand. ■☆■

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