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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 22, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MIKE DEEVER

FROM: MIKE McMANUS *mm*

This is a reminder regarding the question I asked about the Carrier Eisenhower off the coast of Normandy.

I personally think that we have enough good pictures without having to add a high military profile photo.

I recommend we decline the offer to move the Carrier to off the coast of Normandy.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

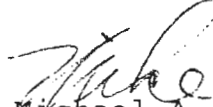
April 11, 1984

Dear Gil:

Thank you for sending the memo regarding the suggested stop-over during the President's trip to France. It looks like a good idea to me and is being discussed by the people working on the plans for the trip.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Michael A. McManus, Jr.
Assistant to the President

Mr. Gilbert A. Robinson
Special Advisor to the Secretary
for Public Diplomacy
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 6, 1984

Mr. Michael A. McManus
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mike:

I sent this through the regular system and I understand it still hasn't gone over.

Because I know everyone is already at work buttoning down plans, I'm sending this to you informally for your planning purposes.

Please let me know what you think of the idea.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. Robinson", written in a cursive style.

Gilbert A. Robinson
Special Advisor to the Secretary
for Public Diplomacy

Enclosure:

Copy of memo to Mr. McFarlane
w/letter from William Petty



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Suggested Stop-over During President's
Trip to France

The attached memorandum for Michael Deaver from Gilbert Robinson is transmitted for forwarding.

The memorandum refers to a letter from Mr. William Petty who suggests a possible stop-over in Normandy during the President's upcoming trip to France, where there will be a commemoration of the Rangers' scaling of the Cliffs of Normandy during the June 1944 invasion.

Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

Attachment



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 30, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Michael K. Deaver
Assistant to the President and
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House

Subject: President's Trip to France and D-Day
Commemorations: Opportunity for an
Appearance with the Rangers

I would like to bring to your attention the attached letter from Mr. William Petty, one of the more than 100 U.S. Rangers who landed on Omaha Beach on June 5-6, 1944, and who will be in Normandy for commemorative ceremonies when the President is there.

The letter makes a very poignant example of the people-to-people dimension of US-French relations. Aside from recalling the incredible acts of bravery which distinguished our men, it points to an equally remarkable "love affair" which endures to this day between the inhabitants of the Pointe Du Hoc area of Normandy and the American fighting men who brought liberation to them.

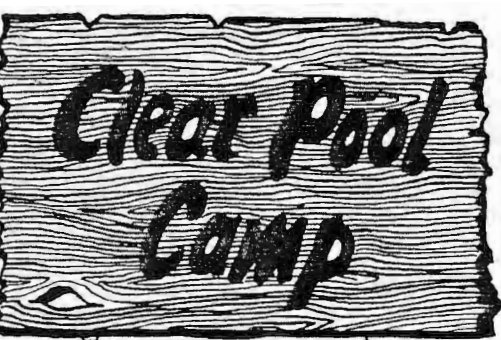
I think this is a very moving episode, the type which best reflects the President's own sentiments and which, you may agree, might be an appropriate one to tie in with the President's visit. Mr. Petty suggests that the President may want to honor this unique episode by appearing there when he visits Normandy this June (it is close by). As much as any other short stop, this could make a dramatic point about the continuing friendship and trust of the American and French peoples.

If you agree, I would be glad to explore it further, or put the appropriate people in touch with your office.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gil".

Gilbert A. Robinson
Special Advisor to the Secretary
for Public Diplomacy

Attachment



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March 2, 1984

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Ambassador Gilbert A. Robinson
 Special Advisor for Public Diplomacy
 Room 7240
 United States Department of State
 Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Gil:

Pursuant to our conversation last evening, I will briefly outline the facts pertinent to the 2nd Ranger assault of the cliffs of Pointe Du Hoc and the remarkable efforts of the Fenchmen of the Pointe Du Hoc Committee to honor that action with the hope that our President will honor the Rangers and them by visiting there when he goes to France for the 40th anniversary of the Invasion. There will be in attendance on the 5th and 6th of June more than 100 Rangers who either scaled the cliffs or assaulted via Omaha Beach.

As you have visited the site, I am sure that you are aware of the magnitude of this Bal-a-klavic endeavor. Instead of including in this letter combat details of the mission, I am sending along a book about the operation which thoroughly covers all phases. I would, however, like to point out that the Rangers objective was to destroy six 155 calibre artillery pieces with a range of fourteen miles that jeopardized the landings at Omaha and Utah Beaches. Although upon arrival at the top of the cliffs, we found that the guns had been relocated; they were found and destroyed by sergants Len Lammel and Jack Kuhn. So the mission was a success.

I feel that what has happened between the Rangers and the local citizens of the Pointe Du Hoc area is of much more significane appropos relationships between two nations than the actual battle. Being aware of President Reagan's sense of respect for the common man, I think that he may like to know of this unique relationship and perhaps honor the local Citizenery and the Rangers by appearing there.

Following is a brief description of the facts as they have been related to me. Further corroboration and details could be obtained by talking to Messieurs Bob Ravalet, Villiers and Tribulett who live in the area. Joe Rivers of the American Battlefield Monuments Commission at the Omaha Beach Cemetary knows how to contact them.

Shortly after the end of World War II the aforementioned men together with other local citizens formed the Committee of Pointe Du Hoc for the purpose of preserving the battlefield to commemorate those who fought there and those who gave their life there. They did just that. In 1984 it remains the same as when we dragged our tired butts off it on June 8th 1944.

I returned there for the first time twenty nine years later with my sons, expecting changes to the extent that I could not explain the battle to them. You can imagine my stunned surprise when I walked out on the Pointe to find it as though I had left it the day before. I wept.

In addition to preserving the battlefield they have erected a monument to the Rangers that is magnificent in its simplicity. In order to accomplish what they did these French gentlemen had to raise in excess of \$50,000 from the community. This becomes an act of magnanimous proportions when one realizes that it occurred in a not wealthy community of a war torn nation.

Over the years there has developed a warm relationship between the members of the Pointe du Hoc Committee and the Rangers. When we visit there the red carpet is out. We dine in their homes and some sleep there. They just can't do enough for you. You must know that from your visit there when you only had to mention my name and Bob Ravalet knew my home town and pretty much all about me. That is not only me but all Rangers who climbed the cliffs. He can probably tell you where they all live.

I feel that the most important aspect of this story is that it is not a government to government thing, but one of people to people. It really is a Readers Digest type story and had I the ability to write I would submit it.

The Ranger contingent will be on the Pointe at 11:00 a.m. on both the 5th and 6th of June. I am sure that time can be made flexible to the Presidents schedule if he decides to head in our direction. Those arrangements would have to be made through Len Lomell in Toms River, N.J. Telephone 201-349-2676 at home, 201-349-2443 office. He is the organizer of the trip and who in my opinion was the top Ranger of the 2nd Bn. He is another source of information on this story and is far more informed on the matter than I. You will find him a very cooperative gentlemen.

I feel that the Rangers are indeed fortunate and indebted to this wonderful group of Frenchmen. Ironically our second major battle (Hill 400, Bergstein, Ger) that made D-Day look like a picnic, is also the same as we left it. The same three companies - D, E, & F that climbed the cliffs took the hill with a bayonet charge. We went up the hill with 180 men and after beating off a paratrooper regiment for three days walked down when relieved with less than 40. The reason it is the same is that it is in a forest preserve. Understandably, there is no monument honoring us there.

Incidentally, Pointe de Hoc was turned over to our Battlefield Monuments Commission in 1979. I think this was the year although I am not certain. At any rate they have it now and in their safe hands it is assured for future generations.

Had the local French citizens not done their heroic deed it would not have been possible to preserve its D-Day condition.

We will appreciate any efforts you may make on our behalf.

Warm regards to you and Pat.

Sincerely yours,

Bill

William L. Petty

I forgot to include the fact that Villiers is currently president of the Pointe de Hoc Committee.

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SUBJECT: D-DAY COMMEMORATION: ESTABLISHMENT OF
INFORMATION CENTER
REF: CONFIDENTIAL STATE 120896

1. EMBASSY PARIS HAS ESTABLISHED A D-DAY VISITORS INFORMATION CENTER TO PERFORM LIAISON WITH CAHO AND TO SERVE AS THE PARIS (AND LATER, NORMANDY) USG CONTACT POINT FOR VETERANS AND ORGANIZATIONS WISHING TO ATTEND NORMANDY LANDING COMMEMORATIONS.

2. THE D-DAY VISITORS INFORMATION CENTER IS LOCATED IN ROOM A-9 OF THE EMBASSY CHANCERY BUILDING, 2 AVENUE GABRIEL (JUST OFF THE PLACE DE LA CONCORDE). ITS TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 296-1202, EXTENSIONS 2030 AND 2031. (DIRECT LINES WHICH WILL BE INSTALLED MAY 2 ARE

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 02 PARIS 6767

DTG: 261718Z APR 84 PSN: 072182

268-1731 AND 268-1732.) THE CENTER IS STAFFED BY FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER HOWARD C. WIENER (FO-2) AND MRS. HOWELL DRAPER OF THE EMBASSY COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICE. MR. WIENER AND MRS. DRAPER WILL BE JOINED BY MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM GERMANY WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. THE CENTER'S HOURS OF OPERATION ARE 0900 TO 1800 LOCAL TIME. FOR AFTER HOURS CONTACT, MR. WIENER'S HOME PHONE NUMBER IN PARIS IS 549-0022; MRS. DRAPER'S HOME PHONE NUMBER IS 500-1591.

3. PLEASE ADDRESS INCOMING MESSAGE TRAFFIC TO AMEMBASSY PARIS FOR D-DAY INFORMATION CENTER. TO FACILITATE HANDLING HERE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INCOMING MESSAGES BEING CLASSIFIED (TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE) NO HIGHER THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

GALBRAITH

BT

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