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*Last Updated: 04/29/2024*

—  
Omaha

on Tony 5

(DOLAN)

<sup>NR</sup>  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRIVATE ZANATTA'S DAUGHTER SAYS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FROM A TERRIBLE WAR, WE LEARNED THAT UNITY MADE US INVINCIBLE; NOW, IN PEACE, THAT SAME UNITY MAKES US SECURE. WE SOUGHT TO BRING ALL FREEDOM-LOVING NATIONS TOGETHER IN A COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO THE DEFENSE AND PRESERVATION OF OUR SACRED VALUES. OUR ALLIANCE, FORGED IN THE CRUCIBLE OF WAR, TEMPERED AND SHAPED BY THE REALITIES OF THE POST-WAR WORLD, HAS SUCCEEDED. IN EUROPE, THE THREAT HAS BEEN CONTAINED, THE PEACE HAS BEEN KEPT.

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



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

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

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

# # #

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

MORE

now 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)

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 or inches of sand as bullets and shellfire cut through their ranks. About them, General Omar Bradley later said: "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero."

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

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

Private Zanatta's daughter says: "I don't know how or why I can feel this emptiness, this fear, or this determination, but I do. Maybe it's the bond I had with my father . . . All I know is that it brings tears to my eyes to think about my father as a 20 year old boy having to face that beach."

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

"So many men died. I know that<sup>6</sup> my father watched many of his friends be killed. I know that<sup>5</sup> he must have died inside a little

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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.

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

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

Lisa Zanatta Henn began her story by quoting from her father, who promised he would return to Normandy. She ended with a promise to her father, who died 8 years ago of cancer: "I'm going there . . . Dad, and I'll see the beaches and the barricades and the monuments. I'll see the graves and I'll put flowers there just like you wanted to do . . . I'll feel all the things you made me feel through your stories and your eyes. I'll never forget what you went through, Dad, nor will I let anyone else forget -- and Dad, I'll always be proud."

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# # #

(Dolan/RR)  
June 5, 1984  
3:30 p.m.

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

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

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Today, we do rededicate ourselves to that cause. And 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 on June 6th, 1944, are here today. Others who hoped to return never did.

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father spoke of often: "The Normandy Invasion would change his life forever," she said.

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

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

Private Zanatta's daughter says: "I don't know how or why I can feel this emptiness, this fear, or this determination, but I do. Maybe it's the bond I had with my father . . . All I know is that it brings tears to my eyes to think about my father as a 20 year old boy having to face that beach."

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

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

When men like Private Zanatta and all our Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy 40 years ago, they came not as conquerors, but as liberators. When these troops 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.

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Luxembourg, they came not to take, but to ~~return~~ what had been wrongly ~~taken~~ <sup>stolen</sup>. 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.

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(Dolan/RR)  
June 5, 1984  
2:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

"Someday, Lis, I'll go back," said Private First Class Peter Robert Zanatta, of the 37th Engineer Combat Battalion, <sup>and</sup> ~~of the~~ first assault wave to hit Omaha Beach. "I'll go back and I'll see it all again. I'll see the beach, the barricades, and the graves."

I'll put a flower on the graves of the guys I knew and on the grave of the unknown soldier -- all the guys I fought with."

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

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

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

Private Zanatta's daughter says: "I don't know how or why I can feel this emptiness, this fear, or this determination, but I do. Maybe it's the bond I had with my father . . . All I know is that it brings tears to my eyes to think about my father as a 20 year old boy having to face that beach."

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

"So many men died. I know that my father watched many of his friends be killed. I know that he must have died inside a

little each time. But his explanation to me was 'You did what you had to do and you kept on going.'"

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 <sup>return</sup> ~~restore~~ what had been wrongly taken. When our forces marched into ~~a ruined~~ Germany, they came not to prey on a brave and defeated people, but to nurture the seeds of democracy among those who yearned again to be free.

We salute them today. But, Mr. President, we also salute those who, like yourself, were already engaging the enemy inside this country -- the French Resistance, <sup>pp</sup> <sup>your</sup> ~~whose~~ valiant struggle for France did so much to cripple the enemy ~~in their midst~~ and ~~to~~ spur the advance of the armies of liberation. These 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.

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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 <sup>b</sup> in a community dedicated to the defense and preservation of our sacred

X

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

Lisa Zanatta Henn began her story by quoting from her father, who promised he would return to Normandy. She ended with a promise to her father, who died 8 years ago of cancer: "I'm going there . . . Dad, and I'll see the beaches and the barricades and the monuments. I'll see the graves and I'll put flowers there just like you wanted to do . . . I'll feel all the things you made me feel through your stories and your eyes. . . . I'll never forget what you went through, Dad, nor will I let anyone else forget -- and Dad, I'll always be proud."

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

Ok done (need deletions)  
Dolan suggested

BE final working

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

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

Mr. President, distinguished guests;

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>Today, in their memory, and for all who fought here,</sup>  
~~This day,~~ we celebrate the triumph of democracy. ~~This day,~~  
 we reaffirm the unity of democratic peoples who fought a war and then joined with the vanquished in a firm resolve to keep the peace, ~~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 ~~can make~~ us secure. We sought <sup>to bring</sup> ~~the inclusion~~ <sup>together,</sup> of all freedom-loving nations in a community dedicated to the defense and preservation of our sacred values. Our alliance, forged in the crucible of war, tempered and shaped by the realities of the post-war world, has succeeded, ~~in this end.~~ In Europe, the threat has been contained. The peace has been kept.

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

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*see the beaches and the barricades and the monuments, I'll see the graves and the flowers and the ceremonies honoring the veterans of D-Day. She promised him*

*July 2nd 1998*

*Kimberly*

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

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

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Possible  
celebration

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*\* Recommend drop last three paragraphs, substitute shorter paragraph [see insert]* NO

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(Insert for Page 4)

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

NO



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

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

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

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

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She went on to say how the anniversary of D-Day for her and her family was always special; 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.'"

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(Dolan) RR)  
May 30, 1984  
2:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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5/24/11

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

Through the words a loving daughter -- who is here with us today -- a D-Day veteran has given us the meaning of this day far better than any President can. It is enough for us to say about Private Zanatta and all the men of honor and courage who fought

beside him four decades ago: We will always remember. We will always be proud.

(Dolan/RR)  
May 30, 1984  
2:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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beside him four decades ago: We will always remember. We will always be proud.

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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

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

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

REMARKS:

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

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*OK*

*M. Riquie*

Richard G. Darman  
 Assistant to the President  
 Ext. 2702

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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

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

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

**REMARKS:**

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

Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

Richard G. Darman  
 Assistant to the President  
 Ext. 2702

RECORDED 10 1 1/25 5:30

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

x5076

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

5/28/84

Ben Elliott:

Jack Marsh wants  
very much to have the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Division mentioned in the Omaha  
Beach remarks (see attached  
package). Would it be possible  
to include a brief reference?  
The George Washington connection  
is interesting.

Thanks -  
Bob Krummelt



COPY 25/5

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE MILITARY ASSISTANT MAY 26 P 5: 14

BOB KIMMITT, NSC

PER OUR CONVERSATION.



~~SECRET~~  
CLOSE HOLD



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

84 MAY 26 P 5. 24 May 1984

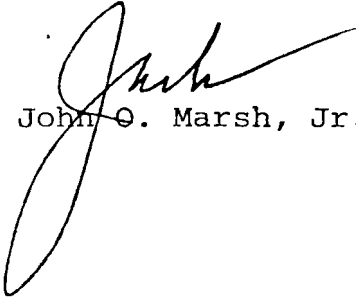
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Proposed Input for Presidential Speech,  
D-Day Ceremonies, Normandy, France --  
ACTION MEMORANDUM

Request your assistance in transmitting the attached information to the White House for possible inclusion in President Reagan's D-Day commemoration remarks. Proposed remarks are at Tab G of the enclosure.

Inclusion in the President's speech will help focus national attention on the important role of the Army National Guard, in particular, and the Total Army as a whole. It is important to note that the proposed remarks announce the formation of an additional infantry division in the National Guard.

Thank you for your assistance in this effort.

  
John O. Marsh, Jr.

Enclosure

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL  
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURES

2/19/97

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED WHEN SEPARATED  
FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

~~SECRET~~

CLOSE HOLD

SEC DEF CONTR No. X30919

BEM

Tab G

Possible Presidential Remarks at Omaha Beach

Even before dawn on June 6, 1944, two of America's most distinguished fighting units the famous 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One) and the 29th Blue and Gray Division, a National Guard division from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, assaulted these beaches. The 116th Infantry Regiment, once commanded by our nation's most distinguished soldier, George Washington, landed in the first wave on Omaha Beach. These heroic Virginians debarked that morning from the USS Thomas Jefferson named after another distinguished Virginian. I am pleased to announce that the Department of the Army will reorganize, within the National Guard of Maryland and Virginia, the 29th Infantry Division who's colors have been folded since 1968.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 22, 1984

1984 MAY 29 PM 1:40

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

We have reviewed the draft and have no comment.


cc: Dick Darman  
Dave Gerson

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 29, 1984

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

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING,   
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Remarks  
for Omaha Beach Memorial

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

cc: Richard G. Darman

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 31, 1984

*Ben*  
*from TONY*  
                      
                      
                    

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT *Bob*

SUBJECT: Omaha Beach Remarks

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

Tab A - Omaha Beach Remarks w/suggested revisions

*cc Dick Darman*

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

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

*Mr. President, Distinguished Guests:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Possible  
Relation

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

\* Recommend drop last three paragraphs, substitute shorter paragraph [see insert]

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

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(Insert for Page 4)

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

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 31, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT *Bob*  
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\* Recommend drop last three paragraphs, substitute shorter paragraph [see insert]

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

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

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

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



(Insert for Page 4)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The President's Speech at Omaha Beach  
June 6, 1984

NOTE: The Speech will be given at the American cemetery above Omaha Beach. The President will speak to a group including President Mitterrand, other French officials, veterans and veterans groups for approximately three minutes. The setting is a dramatic memorial to those who perished in the fighting.

Mr. President, Distinguished Guests:

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

Those who failed to return from these shores are still remembered in our hearts and prayers. But this is not a day devoted exclusively to mourning our dead.

This day we celebrate the triumph of democracy. This day we reaffirm the unity of the democratic peoples everywhere who fought the war and then joined with the vanquished in a firm resolve to keep the peace forevermore. And this day is one more day we live in the peace which our unity and resolve has made possible.

DETERMINED TO BE AN  
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 1.3(a)

By NARA

Date

2/19/97

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-2-

When our allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy forty years ago, they came not as conquerors but as liberators. When these troops swept across France and into the forests of Belgium and Luxembourg, they came not to take, but to restore what had been wrongfully taken. When our forces marched into a ruined Germany, they came not to prey on a brave and defeated people but to nurture the seeds of democracy among those who yearned again to be free. The liberators and the newly-liberated then turned their energies to building a framework to protect the freedoms these brave men and women won back for us.

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

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

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-3-

Those who say that the United States and Europe are drifting apart fail to understand the fundamental strength of our alliance. As free and sovereign democracies we can afford to disagree -- and to do so openly -- without compromising the common principles and essential cooperation underpinning our relationship. We have shared much with our European allies through the years. And we are confident that we are now as much a part of each other's future as we are of each other's past.

As I look out on this sea of gravestones, my final thoughts dwell on the heroism, patriotism and supreme sacrifice of the men and women buried here. They are fittingly honored by this memorial. Yet I cannot help to look into the faces of the living here assembled -- officials, veterans, citizens -- and say this is the greatest tribute of all. We are free. This land is secure. And our peoples are enriched because democracy was worth fighting -- and dying -- for.

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