WHORM Subject File Code: SP891
(Speeches: D-Day Ceremonies, Normandy, 06/06/1984)
Case file Number(s): 215027 (3 of 3)
Box: 222

WITHDRAWAL SHEET
Ronald Reagan Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
letter case (215027)			
1. memo	Robert M. Kimmitt to Ben Elliott, re Presidential remarks: Address at Point du Hoc	5/24/84	~~P5~~
2. memo	Kimmitt to Richard G. Darman, re Pointe du Hoc speech	6/1/84	~~P5~~
3. memo	Tyrus W. Cobb to Kimmitt, re Pointe du Hoc speech	5/30/84	~~P5~~
4. memo	Cobb to Kimmitt, re President's draft speech for Omaha Beach ceremonies	5/25/84	~~P5~~
5. memo	Kimmitt to Darman, re Omaha Beach ceremonies	5/28/84	~~P5~~ CCS 1/17/01
COLLECTION:	WHORM: Subject File		ggc
FILE FOLDER:	SP891 D-Day Ceremonies, Normandy, France, 6/6/84 (215027) [3 of 3]		3/4/96

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]
- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA.
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

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

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]
- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(B)(6) of the FOIA]
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

ID # 215027 CU

SP891

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING

☐ H - INTERNAL

☐ I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) / /

PJR

Name of Correspondent: Richard Darman

☐ **MI Mail Report** **User Codes: (A)** _____ **(B)** _____ **(C)** _____

Subject: Presidential Address: Pointe Du Hoc D-Day - (5/21 - 3:30 draft)

ROUTE TO: Office/Agency (Staff Name)	ACTION: Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	DISPOSITION: Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD	
CUHOC	ORIGINATOR	84 05 21	JV	C	84 05 22	JV
	Referral Note:					
CUAT 09	D	84 05 21	JV	C	84 05 22	JV
	Referral Note:					
CUAT 17	I	84 05 21	JV	C	84 05 22	JV
	Referral Note:					
CUAT 04	S	84 05 22	JV	C	84 05 22	JV
	Referral Note:	RAH memo to Ben Elliott				
		/ /			/ /	
	Referral Note:					

ACTION CODES:
- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:
- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
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5/81

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents:_____ Media: _____ Individual Codes: __.____ __.____ __.____

Prime Subject Code: __ ___ __ Secondary Subject Codes: __ ___.__ __ ___.__

__ ___.__ __ ___.__

__ ___.__ __ ___.__

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C __	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1984

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

FROM: RICHARD A. HAUSER /S/
DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Address at Pointe du Hoc

Our office has reviewed the above-referenced draft address and has no legal or other substantive objection to it.

cc: Richard G. Darman

RAH:PJR:pr 5/22/84
cc: RAHauser
PJRusthoven
Subject
Chron.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD A. HAUSER

FROM: PETER J. RUSTHOVEN

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Address at Pointe du Hoc

Richard Darman's office asked us this morning to provide comments directly to Ben Elliott by 5:00 p.m. today on the above-referenced draft address, which the President is scheduled to deliver on Wednesday, June 6, at Pointe du Hoc, Normandy, on the 40th anniversary of D-Day.

The draft address begins with an eloquent and moving recital of the sacrifices made by soldiers of the Alliance in the Normandy invasion, and moves from there to the American rebuilding of Europe after the war and our continued commitment to freedom today. The draft presents no legal or other substantive problem on which our office need comment.

A memorandum for Elliott, with copy to Darman, is attached for your review and signature.

Attachment

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/21/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 p.m. tomorrow 5/22

SUBJECT: ADDRESS: POINTE DU HOC
(5/21 - 3:30 draft)

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	McFARLANE	☑	☐
MEESE	☐	☑	McMANUS	☐	☐
BAKER	☐	☑	MURPHY	☐	☐
DEAVER	☐	☑	OGLESBY	☑	☐
STOCKMAN	☑	☐	ROGERS	☐	☐
DARMAN	☐ P	☑ SS	SPEAKES	☐	☐
FELDSTEIN	☐	☐	SVAHN	☑	☐
FIELDING	☑	☐	VERSTANDIG	☐	☐
FULLER	☑	☐	WHITTLESEY	☐	☐
HERRINGTON	☐	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☑
			TUTWILER	☑	
HICKEY	☐	☐	WIRTHLIN	☑	☐
			HENKEL	☑	

REMARKS:

RESPONSE:

1984 MAY 21 PM 7:02

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

Received SS
1984 MAY 21 PM 5:32

(Noonan/BE)
May 21, 1984
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: POINTE DU HOC
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

We are here to mark that day in history when the Allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For 4 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 from the conquerors. Europe was enslaved, and the world waited for its rescue. Here the rescue began. Here the West stood, and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history.

The Allied effort was the result of enormous cooperation, enormous coordination, and enormous courage. The men of this Invasion fought on the land, on the sea, and in the air. And they fought on these cliffs.

As we stand here today, the air is soft and full of sunlight, and if we pause and listen we will hear the snap of the flags and the click of cameras and the gentle murmur of people come to visit a place of great sanctity and meaning.

But 40 years ago today -- 40 years ago as I speak -- the air was dense with smoke and the cries of men, the air was filled with the crack of rifle fire and the boom of cannons. Before dawn on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, 200 American Rangers jumped off the British landing craft, stormed onto the beach, and ran to the bottom of these cliffs. Their mission that day was one of the most difficult and daring of the Invasion: to climb these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns. For here were concentrated the mightiest of those guns,

which would be trained on the beaches to stop the Allied advance. Removing the guns was pivotal to the Normandy Invasion, which itself was pivotal to the reclaiming of Europe, the end of the war, and the end of the long night of totalitarian conquest.

The Rangers looked up and saw the big guns -- and they saw the enemy soldiers at the edge of the cliffs shooting down at them and throwing grenades and filling the air with machine gun fire. And the American Rangers began to climb. They shot their rope ladders into the face of these cliffs and they pulled themselves up. And when one Ranger would fall another would take his place, and when one rope was cut and a Ranger would hurtle to the bottom, he would find another rope and begin his climb again. They climbed and shot back and held their footing; and in time the enemy guns were quieted, in time the Rangers held the cliffs, in time the enemy pulled back and one by one the Rangers pulled themselves over the top -- and in seizing the firm land at the top of these cliffs they seized back the continent of Europe.

Forty years ago as I speak they were fighting to hold these cliffs. They had radioed back and asked for reinforcements and they were told: There aren't any. But they did not give up. It was not in them to give up. They would not be turned back; they held the cliffs.

Words are hollow next to such deeds, and the valor of these men is impossible to describe. But we know that 200 came here, and by the end of two days of fighting only 90 could still bear arms.

We have here today some of the survivors of the battle of Point du Hoc, some of the Rangers who took these cliffs. I think

I know what they are thinking as they hear themselves praised. They are thinking: "Oh, I was just part of what happened, just a part of a bigger thing . . . and everyone was brave that day."

Everyone was. The heroism of the men of D-Day was boundless, but there was another quality to it, not only of size but of spirit. There was a style that reflected the special honor of each country.

Do you remember Bill Millin of Scotland? The day of the Invasion, British troops were pinned down near a bridge outside Caen. They were trying to hold their position under enemy fire, and they were crouched against the cold gray ground waiting desperately for reinforcements. Suddenly, they heard the sound of bagpipes wafting through the air, amorphous as a dream. Some of them thought it was. But the sound of those bagpipes came closer and louder, and they looked up to see Bill Millin of the 51st Scottish Highlanders marching at the head of the reinforcements, ignoring the smack of the bullets into the sand around him. Lord Lovat was with him -- Lord Lovat of England, marching along with his commandos, and equally unconcerned at the enemy fire. When he got to the bridge Lord Lovat calmly announced, "Sorry I'm a few minutes late." As if he'd been delayed by bad weather or a traffic jam. When in truth he'd been delayed by the bloody fighting on Sword Beach, which he and his men had just taken.

There was the young Frenchman, Michel de Vallavielle, who had been confined by the Germans in his home near Utah Beach. When the Invasion began he defied the enemy patrols, broke the curfew, and ran from his house to the beach to tell the Allied

troops where the German guns were hidden. He did not know it was D-Day -- he had no reason to think the invaders would be successful -- but like so many Frenchmen he had to help, and he did; and later that day he was shot when a paratrooper mistook him for one of the enemy, and it took him a year in Allied hospitals to recover.

There was the doggedness of Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Vandervoort of the All America Screaming Eagles, who broke his leg when he parachuted on to French soil. So he commandeered a small farm cart and ordered his men to wheel him on to the battlefield. There was the grace of General Theodore Roosevelt Jr., who walked with his men on Omaha Beach, and took the same risks as they. His calmness under fire rallied the troops. He died and was buried during the push for Paris. To this day, his men say he epitomized the phrase "an officer and a gentleman."

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, the only troops who knew exactly what they would face when they hit the beaches. The year before, their countrymen had been slaughtered at Dieppe. They knew what awaited them here, but they would not be deterred, and they hit Juno Beach and held it and would not let go.

There was the honor of the German soldiers. By the summer of 1944, some of them had lost faith in their rulers; but they kept faith with their people and they kept the faith of the corps. Many fought as great men fight, and, in the military

tradition that honors gallantry for itself alone, some of them were buried with the Allied dead.

All of these men were part of a rollcall of honor, with names that speak of a pride as bright as the colors they wore: the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the Manitoba Grenadiers, Poland's 24th Lancers, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the Yeomen of England's armoured divisions, the forces of Free France, the Regiment de Chars de Combat, the 101st Airborne. These names are written forever on this sand and on this wind, for truly these are men who "in their lives fought for life . . . and left the vivid air signed with their honor."

What inspired the men of the armies that met here? What impelled them to put all thought of self-preservation behind, and put themselves in harm's way not for their own sake but for others? What was it that made them overcome fear and become champions of liberty?

It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love. It was 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 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. They were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so they did not doubt their cause. And they were right not to doubt.

They knew that some things are worth dying for -- that one's country is worth dying for and that democracy is worth dying for, because it is the most deeply honorable form of Government ever

devised by man. They loved liberty and they were happy to fight against tyranny. And they knew the people of their countries were behind them and supporting them.

The British soldiers knew this when they pushed off from England on the night of June 5th. The Invasion was still a secret and there were to be no big goodbyes for the townspeople who saw them off. But as the soldiers departed they could see the people crying as they said farewell. The American soldiers knew in their hearts, though they could not know in fact, that when word of the Invasion spread throughout America, people filled the churches at 4 a.m., and families dressed in their nightclothes knelt and prayed on their porches; and in Philadelphia they did what they do to mark the most momentous occasions of our national life: They rang the Liberty Bell. Bells rang out all across America that night.

And there was another element that helped the men of D-Day. It was the 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 are about to do. And in another part of England General Mathew Ridgeway that same night lay on his cot and talked to his God and listened for the words spoken to Joshua: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

These are the things that impelled them; these are the things that informed the unity of the West. And with that unity the West could not be stopped.

Within a few weeks of the Invasion the forces of Free France swept into Paris, and the people of that great city filled the streets with roar after roar of "Vive la France, Vive la division LeClerc." Paris was free again; soon France would be free again, and Europe would be free.

When the war was over the nations that emerged from the ashes were faced with the challenge of making a new beginning. There were lives to be rebuilt and communities to be reconstructed. There were governments to be returned to the people and nations to be reborn. Above all, there was a new peace to be assured. These were huge and daunting tasks. But the Allies who fought in the Normandy Invasion drew new strength from the faith and belief and loyalty and love of those who fell here. And they rebuilt a new Europe together.

Their first accomplishment was a great reconciliation, not only of those who fought on opposite sides in the war . . . but of those nations which had been torn for centuries by rivalries of territory and religion and power. Finally, with the end of World War II, the rivalries which had bedeviled Western Europe for centuries were interred.

After that great and historic accomplishment, the Allies together rebuilt the rubble of Europe. This effort required the same cooperation, coordination, and courage that the Normandy Invasion required. Inspired by the virtues of the men who fought the war, the United States created the Marshall Plan -- by which we helped rebuild our allies and our former enemies. The Marshall Plan led to the Atlantic Alliance -- a great alliance that functions as a shield for democracy and for prosperity, a

great alliance that acknowledges that Europe's destiny is America's destiny.

In spite of our great efforts and our great successes, not all of what followed the end of the war was happy, or planned. The destruction of the war left Europe weakened in the face of Soviet communism. Some of the countries that had been liberated were lost. The great sadness of that fact echoes down to our own time and can be seen in the streets of Poland and Czechoslovakia and Hungary. We saw threatening Soviet action in Berlin -- and we realized that the Soviet troops that occupied the center of this continent would not leave after the end of the war that called them here. They are there to this day, uninvited, unwanted, but still unyielding almost 40 years after the war ended.

Because of this, Allied forces still stand on this continent. But our armies are here only to protect and defend democracy -- and never to take land that is not ours. The only land we hold is the graveyards like these where our heroes rest.

We in America have learned the bitter lessons of two world wars: that it is better to be here and ready to preserve and protect the peace, than to take blind shelter in our homes across the sea, rushing only to respond after freedom is threatened. We have learned, in spite of our long and enduring desire for peace, that isolationism never was and never can be an acceptable response to tyrannical governments with expansionist intent. We have learned that isolationism does not avert war. It assures it.

We live in difficult times. It would be a wonderful thing if today, 40 years after the Normandy Invasion, we could say that tyranny was forever defeated on these shores. But history did not grant us the right to make that claim. There are those who say that the West is the great destabilizing force in the world today, that America is the reason we have not achieved peace, that America is the warmonger and America is the problem.

I tell you truly that this is not so. It never was and it never will be. All that we do to build our defenses and to negotiate the control of arms is part of our effort to be prepared for peace.

In truth there is no reconciliation we would welcome more than a reconciliation with the Soviet Union, so that together we can lessen the chance of conflict, now and forever.

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 man now has in his hands. I tell you we are ready to seize that beachhead -- but there must be some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, 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 on forever that some day that changing will come. But for now -- and particularly today -- it is good and fitting for us to renew our commitment to each other, to our freedom, and to the alliance that protects it.

We are bound still by what bound us 40 years ago, bound by the same loyalties and traditions and beliefs. We are bound by

reality: The strength and freedom of America's allies is still vital to the future of the United States. And the American security guarantee remains indispensible to the continued freedom and independence of Europe's democracies. We know, as we did 40 years ago, that our future is your future, and our hopes are your hopes.

Together, on this day 40 years after the Allies seized back a continent to liberty, let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for and we honor those ideals no less than they. Let us say to them through our actions the words for which Mathew Ridgeway listened: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

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

Thank you all very much.

4

4118
21502755

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 5/28/84

SP891

Dick Darman

Bud would like to suggest the following edits on Point du Hoc.

Bob Kimmitt

cc Ben Elliott
Ty Cobb

nsd's - 5/78

I dispatched
to all of those
addressed by RMK -
pls add to
file -

KMS

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 24, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT Bob

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Address at Pointe du Hoc

In coordination with State, we have reviewed and concur with the Point du Hoc address, as modified. Part of our effort, based on informal advice from your office and the Advance office, was to reduce the length of the President's remarks. Should it be necessary to further reduce the speech, then we strongly recommend that the themes of the latter part of the speech, "Reconciliation of Adversaries" and "Reconstruction of Europe" be retained.

Attachment
Tab A - Recommended Changes

cc: Richard Darman

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 24, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT Bob

SUBJECT: Pointe du Hoc Presidential Remarks

Attached at Tab A is your May 24 draft Presidential speech for Pointe du Hoc with our suggested modifications.

Attachment
Tab A - Speech with recommended changes

cc: Richard Darman

4118
ADD-ON

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SIGNED

ACTION

May 24, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

FROM: TYRUS W. COBB

SUBJECT: Pointe du Hoc Presidential Remarks

Attached is another reiteration of the President's remarks at the Pointe du Hoc. I have incorporated my recommended changes from my memorandum of May 23 that were not reflected in the speechwriter's latest draft. I think the latest version is greatly improved in style and content.

Jim Rentschler, Jack Matlock, Peter Sommer and Karna Small concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to Ben Elliott at Tab I.

Approve K Disapprove ____

Attachments
Tab I - Memo to Ben Elliott
Tab A - Point du Hoc Speech, with changes

National Security Council
The White House

1178 JF

System # I

Package # 4118

84 MAY 23 P 6: 46

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Dep. Exec. Sec'y	1	1	
Bob Kimmitt	2	K	
John Poindexter			
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	3	MAY 24 '84	D/Hand-carry ASAP to Elliott
Situation Room			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

May 23, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

FROM: TYRUS W. COBB

SIGNED

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Address at Pointe Du Hoc

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the self-explanatory memo to Ben Elliott at Tab I.

Approve K Disapprove ____

Jim Rentschler, Jack Matlock, Peter Sommer and Karna Small concur.

Attachments
Tab I - Memo to Elliott
Tab A - Pointe du Hoc Speech w/changes
Tab B - Incoming State Correspondence

DATE SENT: 5/23/84

CLASSIFIED MATERIAL V 2388242

Return Receipt To Sender

TO: MR. CHARLES HILL EXEC. SEC.
S/S ROOM 7224 N.S. WASH., DC

FROM: NSC PAUL THOMPSON RM 372 OEOB DIRECT

PART IV

DATE RECEIVED: 395-3044

(Signature of Addressee)

IDENTIFICATION 8415104

Action Cobb
Info Matlock
Kimmitt
Small
Martin

URGENT

ADDRESSEE SIGN AFTER CHECKING AND RETURN TO SENDER.
RETAINED BY SENDER FOR 3 YEARS

Optional Form 112
Rev. 8/79
State AID USICA

S/S 8415104

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

4118

May 23, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Pointe du Hoc Speech

In response to NSC memo 4118 of May 22 which requested comments by 3:00 p.m. May 23, attached is a copy of the Pointe du Hoc speech with changes indicated thereon. Note that an insert on page 9 is found on a new page 9A. Our revisions have been discussed informally with Mr. Sommer of the NSC Staff. Deletions in order to shorten the speech to fit the allotted delivery time are indicated by an asterisk.

Given the limited time available for delivery of the speech (we are advised it is eight minutes), the theme of reconciliation of adversaries and reconstruction of Europe is treated only from page seven to page ten in the current draft. The very effective D-Day historical notes comprise the majority of the speech. Should additional delivery time become available, additional material on reconciliation and reconstruction contained in the Department's May 2 draft can be added.

Pomcf-mlay
for Charles M. Hill
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Pointe du Hoc speech.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

National Security Council
The White House

System # I
Package # 4118

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Dep. Exec. Sec'y			
Bob Kimmitt	1	K	
John Poindexter	2		
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane	3	M	Advance
Bob Kimmitt	4	K	
NSC Secretariat	5		N/2
Situation Room			Retain

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other

COMMENTS Should be seen by: (Date/Time)

Pointe du Hoc speech -- good move, but it will have to be shortened. My suggestions are in pencil.

National Security Council
The White House

System # _____

Package # _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Dep. Exec. Sec'y			
Bob Kimmitt	1	K	
John Poindexter	2	P	
Tom Shull		P	
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane	3	M	Advance
Bob Kimmitt	4	K	
NSC Secretariat	5		N
Situation Room			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____ (Date/Time)

Pointe du Hoc speech -- good piece, but it will have to be shortened. My suggestions are in pencil.

Document No. 4118

COPY

84 MAY 21 - P 7: 31

URGENT

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/21/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 p.m. tomorrow 5/22

SUBJECT: ADDRESS: POINTE DU HOC
(5/21 - 3:30 draft)

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	McFARLANE	☑	☐
MEESE	☐	☑	McMANUS	☐	☐
BAKER	☐	☑	MURPHY	☐	☐
DEAVER	☐	☑	OGLESBY	☑	☐
STOCKMAN	☑	☐	ROGERS	☐	☐
DARMAN	☐ P	☑ SS	SPEAKES	☐	☐
FELDSTEIN	☐	☐	SVAHN	☑	☐
FIELDING	☑	☐	VERSTANDIG	☐	☐
FULLER	☑	☐	WHITTLESEY	☐	☐
HERRINGTON	☐	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☑
HICKEY	☐	☐	TUTWILER	☑	☐
			WIRTHLIN	☑	☐
			HENKEL	☑	

REMARKS:

RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

Received SS
1984 MAY 21 PM 5:32

(Noonan/BE)
May 21, 1984
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: POINTE DU HOC
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

We are here to mark that day in history when the Allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For 4 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 from the conquerors. Europe was enslaved, and the world waited for its rescue. Here the rescue began. Here the West stood, and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history.

The Allied effort was the result of enormous cooperation, enormous coordination, and enormous courage. The men of this Invasion fought on the land, on the sea, and in the air. And they fought on these cliffs.

As we stand here today, the air is soft and full of sunlight, and if we pause and listen we will hear the snap of the flags and the click of cameras and the gentle murmur of people come to visit a place of great sanctity and meaning.

But 40 years ago today -- 40 years ago as I speak -- the air was dense with smoke and the cries of men, the air was filled with the crack of rifle fire and the ~~boom~~ roar of cannons. Before dawn on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, 200 American Rangers jumped off the British landing craft, stormed onto the beach, and ran to the bottom of these cliffs. Their mission that day was one of the most difficult and daring of the Invasion: to climb these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns. For here were concentrated the mightiest of those guns,

which would be trained on the beaches to stop the Allied advance. Removing the guns was pivotal to the Normandy Invasion, which itself was pivotal to the reclaiming of Europe, the end of the war, and the end of the long night of totalitarian conquest.

The Rangers looked up and saw the big guns -- and they saw the enemy soldiers at the edge of the cliffs shooting down at them and throwing grenades and filling the air with machine gun fire. And the American Rangers began to climb. They shot their rope ladders into the face of these cliffs and they pulled themselves up. And when one Ranger would fall another would take his place, and when one rope was cut and a Ranger would hurtle to the bottom, he would find another rope and begin his climb again. They climbed and shot back and held their footing; and in time the enemy guns were quieted, in time the Rangers held the cliffs, in time the enemy pulled back and one by one the Rangers pulled themselves over the top -- and in seizing the firm land at the top of these cliffs they seized back part of the continent of Europe.

Forty years ago as I speak they were fighting to hold these cliffs. They had radioed back and asked for reinforcements and they were told: There aren't any. But they did not give up. It was not in them to give up. They would not be turned back; they held the cliffs.

fact?

Words are hollow next to such deeds, and the valor of these men is impossible to describe. But we know that 200 came here, and by the end of two days of fighting only 90 could still bear arms.

We have here today some of the survivors of the battle of Point du Hoc, some of the Rangers who took these cliffs. I think

I know what they are thinking as they hear themselves praised. They are thinking: "Oh, I was just part of what happened, just a part of a bigger thing . . . and everyone was brave that day."

Everyone was. The heroism of the men of D-Day was boundless, but there was another quality to it, not only of size but of spirit. There was a style that reflected the special honor of each country.

Do you remember Bill Millin of Scotland? The day of the Invasion, British troops were pinned down near a bridge outside Caen. They were trying to hold their position under enemy fire, and they were crouched against the cold gray ground waiting desperately for reinforcements. Suddenly, they heard the sound of bagpipes wafting through the air, amorphous as a dream. Some of them thought it was. But the sound of those bagpipes came closer and louder, and they looked up to see Bill Millin of the 51st Scottish Highlanders marching at the head of the reinforcements, ignoring the smack of the bullets into the sand around him. Lord Lovat was with him -- Lord Lovat of England, marching along with his commandos, and equally unconcerned at the enemy fire. When he got to the bridge Lord Lovat calmly announced, "Sorry I'm a few minutes late." As if he'd been delayed by bad weather or a traffic jam. When in truth he'd been delayed by the bloody fighting on Sword Beach, which he and his men had just taken.

There was the young Frenchman, Michel de Vallavielle, who had been confined by the Germans in his home near Utah Beach. When the Invasion began he defied the enemy patrols, broke the curfew, and ran from his house to the beach to tell the Allied

troops where the German guns were hidden. He did not know it was D-Day -- he had no reason to think the invaders would be successful -- but like so many Frenchmen he had to help, and he did; and later that day he was shot when a paratrooper mistook him for one of the enemy, and it took him a year in Allied hospitals to recover.

No! "All American" is the 82d Abn (Gavin); Screaming Eagles 101st Abn (Taylor)

There was the doggedness of Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Vandervoort of the ~~All America~~ Screaming Eagles, who broke his leg when he parachuted on to French soil. So he commandeered a small farm cart and ordered his men to wheel him on to the battlefield. There was the grace of General Theodore Roosevelt Jr., who walked with his men on Omaha Beach, and took the same risks as they. His calmness under fire rallied the troops. He died and was buried during the push for Paris. To this day, his men say he epitomized the phrase "an officer and a gentleman."

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, the only troops who knew exactly what they would face when they hit the beaches. The year before, their countrymen had been slaughtered at Dieppe. They knew what awaited them here, but they would not be deterred, and they hit Juno Beach and held it and would not let go.

There was the honor of the German soldiers. By the summer of 1944, some of them had lost faith in their rulers; but they kept faith with their people and they kept the faith of the corps. Many fought as great men fight, and, in the military

tradition that honors gallantry for itself alone, some of them were buried with the Allied dead.

All of these men were part of a rollcall of honor, with names that speak of a pride as bright as the colors they wore: the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the Manitoba Grenadiers, Poland's 24th Lancers, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the Yeomen of England's armoured divisions, the forces of Free France, the Regiment de Chars de Combat, the 101st Airborne. These names are written forever on this sand and on this wind, for truly these are men who "in their lives fought for life . . . and left the vivid air signed with their honor."

What inspired the men of the armies that met here? What impelled them to put all thought of self-preservation behind, and put themselves in harm's way not for their own sake but for others? What was it that made them overcome fear and become champions of liberty?

It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love. It was 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 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. They were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so they did not doubt their cause. And they were right not to doubt.

They knew that some things are worth dying for -- that one's country is worth dying for and that democracy is worth dying for, because it is the most deeply honorable form of Government ever

devised by man. They loved liberty and they were willing to fight against tyranny. And they knew the people of their countries were behind them and supporting them.

The British soldiers knew this when they pushed off from England on the night of June 5th. The Invasion was still a secret and there were to be no big goodbyes for the townspeople who saw them off. But as the soldiers departed they could see the people crying as they said farewell. The American soldiers knew in their hearts, though they could not know in fact, that when word of the Invasion spread throughout America, people filled the churches at 4 a.m., and families dressed in their nightclothes knelt and prayed on their porches; and in Philadelphia they did what they do to mark the most momentous occasions of our national life: They rang the Liberty Bell. Bells rang out all across America that night.

And there was another element that helped the men of D-Day. It was the 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 are about to do. And in another part of England General Mathew Ridgeway that same night lay on his cot and talked to his God and listened for the words spoken to Joshua: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

These are the things that impelled them; these are the things that informed the unity of the West. And with that unity the West could not be stopped.

Within a few weeks of the Invasion the forces of Free France swept into Paris, and the people of that great city filled the streets with roar after roar of "Vive la France, Vive la division LeClerc." Paris was free again; soon France would be free again, and Europe would be free.

When the war was over the nations that emerged from the ashes were faced with the challenge of making a new beginning. There were lives to be rebuilt and communities to be reconstructed. There were governments to be returned to the people and nations to be reborn. Above all, there was a new peace to be assured. These were huge and daunting tasks. But the Allies who fought in the Normandy Invasion drew new strength from the faith and belief and loyalty and love of those who fell here. And they rebuilt a new Europe together.

Their first accomplishment was a great reconciliation, not only of those who fought on opposite sides in the war . . . but of those nations which had been torn for centuries by rivalries of territory and religion and power. Finally, with the end of World War II, the rivalries which had bedeviled Western Europe for centuries were interred.

After that great and historic accomplishment, the Allies together rebuilt the rubble of Europe. This effort required the same cooperation, coordination, and courage that the Normandy Invasion required. Inspired by the virtues of the men who fought the war, the United States created the Marshall Plan -- by which we helped rebuild our allies and our former enemies. The Marshall Plan led to the Atlantic Alliance -- a great alliance that functions as a shield for democracy and for prosperity, a

great alliance that acknowledges that Europe's destiny is America's destiny.

In spite of our great efforts and our great successes, not all of what followed the end of the war was happy, or planned. The destruction of the war left Europe weakened in the face of Soviet expansionism. ~~communism.~~ Some of the countries that had been liberated were lost. The great sadness of that fact echoes down to our own time and can be seen in the streets of Poland and Czechoslovakia and Hungary. We saw threatening Soviet action in Berlin -- and we realized that the Soviet troops that occupied the center of this continent would not leave after the end of the war that called them here. They are there to this day, uninvited, unwanted, but still unyielding almost 40 years after the war ended.

Because of this, Allied forces still stand on this continent. But our armies are here only to protect and defend democracy -- and never to take land that is not ours. The only land we hold is the graveyards like these where our heroes rest.

We in America have learned the bitter lessons of two world wars: that it is better to be here and ready to preserve and protect the peace, than to take blind shelter in our homes across the sea, rushing only to respond after freedom is threatened. We have learned, in spite of our long and enduring desire for peace, that isolationism never was and never can be an acceptable response to tyrannical governments with expansionist intent. We have learned that isolationism does not avert war. It assures it.

We live in difficult times. It would be a wonderful thing if today, 40 years after the Normandy Invasion, we could say that tyranny was forever defeated on these shores. But history did not grant us the right to make that claim. There are those who say that the West is the great destabilizing force in the world today, that America is the reason we have not achieved peace, that America is the warmonger and America is the problem.

I tell you truly that this is not so. It never was and it never will be. All that we do to build our defenses and to negotiate the control of arms is part of our effort to be prepared for peace.

In truth there is no reconciliation we would welcome more than a reconciliation with the Soviet Union, so that together we can lessen the chance of conflict, now and forever.

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 man now has in his hands. I tell you we are ready to seize that beachhead -- but there must be some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, 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 on forever that some day that changing will come. But for now -- and particularly today -- it is good and fitting for us to renew our commitment to each other, to our freedom, and to the alliance that protects it.

We are bound still by what bound us 40 years ago, bound by the same loyalties and traditions and beliefs. We are bound by

reality. The strength and freedom of America's allies ~~is~~ are still vital to the future of the United States. And the American security guarantee remains indispensible to the continued freedom and independence of Europe's democracies. We know, as we did 40 years ago, that our future is your future, and our hopes are your hopes.

Together, on this day 40 years after the Allies seized back a continent to liberty, let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for and we honor those ideals no less than they. Let us say to them through our actions the words for which Mathew Ridgeway listened: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

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

Thank you all very much.

National Security Council
The White House

1161 JF

System # I

Package # 4118 add-on

MAY 24 P5:43

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Dep. Exec. Sec'y	1	✓	
Bob Kimmitt	2	K	
John Poindexter			
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	3		MAY 24 1984
Situation Room			

I = Information **A = Action** R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other

COMMENTS Should be seen by: (Date/Time)

NSCLS
- ✓ dispatched Dar
- Pls out to Elliott
- cy attached for NSCLS

Kms

NSC/S PROFILE UNCLASSIFIED ID 8404118

RECEIVED 21 MAY 84 20

TO MCFARLANE FROM DARMAN, R DOCDATE 21 MAY 84

SOMMER 22 MAY 84

KIMMITT 22 MAY 84

KEYWORDS: FRANCE NATO URGENT

SPEECHES DARMAN REFERRAL

SUBJECT: POINTE DU HOC ADDRESS 6 JUN

ACTION: MEMO KIMMITT TO DARMAN DUE: 25 MAY 84 STATUS X FILES WH

FOR ACTION	FOR CONCURRENCE		FOR INFO
COBB	FORTIER	MATLOCK	SOMMER
	SMALL		SHULL
			KIMMITT
			THOMPSON

COMMENTS Recd in NSC/S 19:30. Dispatched immediately URGENT

REF# LOG NSCIFID (VL CM)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
Cobb	X 5/24	Appropriate action		
Close - Handled under #4118 Add-On - 5/24				
Kimmitt	X 5/24	For Sig		
	C 5/24	K-- with memo		CO, RK

DISPATCH ed MJD 5/24 W/ATTCH FILE WH (C) MD

NSC/S PROFILE UNCLASSIFIED ID 8404118

RECEIVED 21 MAY 84 20

TO MCFARLANE FROM DARMAN, R DOCDATE 21 MAY 84

SOMMER 22 MAY 84

KIMMITT 22 MAY 84

KEYWORDS: FRANCE NATO

SPEECHES DARMAN REFERRAL

SUBJECT: POINTE DU HOC ADDRESS 6 JUN

ACTION: MEMO KIMMITT TO DARMAN DUE: 25 MAY 84 STATUS C FILES WH

FOR ACTION	FOR CONCURRENCE		FOR INFO
COBB	FORTIER	MATLOCK	SOMMER
	SMALL		SHULL
			KIMMITT
			THOMPSON

COMMENTS

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RECEIVED 21 MAY 84 20

TO MCFARLANE FROM DARMAN, R DOCDATE 21 MAY 84

SOMMER 22 MAY 84

KIMMITT 22 MAY 84

KEYWORDS: FRANCE NATO

SPEECHES DARMAN REFERRAL

URGENT

SUBJECT: POINTE DU HOC ADDRESS 6 JUN

WH

ACTION: MEMO KIMMITT TO DARMAN DUE: 23 MAY 84 STATUS D FILES ~~WH~~

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COBB	FORTIER	MATLOCK	SOMMER
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			KIMMITT
			THOMPSON

COMMENTS

REF# LOG NSCIFID (VL)

ACTION OFFICER (S)		ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
	D	5/22	Kimmitt Sgd Memo		PS RK
	—	5/23	Rec'd State Comments		
Cobb	S	5/23	Memo Kimmitt to Elliot		PS, Lm, KS, Kim RK
Kimmitt	X	5/24	For signature	5/25	
	C	MAY 24 1984	Kimmitt sgd		DA, CD, RK, REN, JM, PS, KS

DISPATCH KMS hDX hand 5/22 W/ATTCH FILE (C)

MAY 24 1984

4118
ADD-ON

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 1, 1984

21502755
-
SP891

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT Bob

SUBJECT: Pointe du Hoc Speech

We have reviewed the latest version of the Pointe du Hoc speech (May 25) and recommend three changes:

1. A reference to the Canadian slaughter at Dieppe should be eliminated since many Canadians blame the British for this disaster.

2. An addition of a short paragraph alluding to Soviet losses in the war. This will assist us in maintaining the moral high ground we have secured in our public diplomacy struggle with the Soviets.

3. Editorial changes that Bud suggested and were forwarded in my handwritten note of May 28.

Attachment
Tab A - Pointe du Hoc Speech (modified)

4118
Add-On

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

May 30, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

FROM: TYRUS W. COBB TWC

SUBJECT: Pointe du Hoc Speech

Speechwriters provided me with a copy of the latest (final??) version of the Pointe du Hoc speech, which incorporated most of historical corrections, and some of our stylistic suggestions. This version does not reflect Bud's suggested changes made on May 28 in a version forwarded to Darman by you.

It has two other problems that I would have raised had I seen it again Monday. A reference to the Canadian slaughter at Dieppe is still in -- the Army historians tell me this is especially sensitive with the Canadians since they believe that it was the fault of the British that they suffered such extensive casualties. The other point -- the reference to the Soviet losses, a paragraph that NSC (Jack feels especially strongly) and State wanted, still is not in the speech.

Ben told us yesterday that speechwriters felt that this smacked of "detentism" and didn't want it in; I explained why we thought it necessary. I don't think that we should go to the mat, but I also don't believe that this is the speechwriters call. Could you please check with Bud on his preference.

If Bud agrees, I have drafted a note from you to Darman, forwarding a revised manuscript suggesting the elimination of the reference to Dieppe, incorporating Bud's style changes and the addition of the reference to the Soviet sacrifices.

Jack Matlock, Peter Sommer and Jim Rentschler concur.

RECOMMENDATION

After checking with Bud, that you sign the memo to Darman at Tab I.

Approve RM Disapprove ____

Attachment
Tab A - Pointe du Hoc Speech (May 25 Version)

(Noonan/BE)
May 25, 1984
12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: POINTE DU HOC
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

We are here to mark that day in history when the Allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For 4 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 ~~waited~~ prayed for its rescue. Here, in Normandy, the rescue began. Here the West 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. As I speak, the air is soft and full of sunlight. But 40 years ago at this moment, the air was dense with smoke and the cries of men, the air was filled with the crack of rifle fire and the ~~boom~~ roar of cannons. At dawn on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, 225 American Rangers jumped off a 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 the mightiest of those 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 at 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 they began to pull themselves up. And when one Ranger would fall another would take his place, and when one rope was cut a Ranger

would grab another and begin his climb again. They climbed and shot back and held their footing; and in time the enemy pulled back; in time the Rangers held the cliffs; and 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.

Forty years ago as I speak they were fighting to hold these cliffs. They had radioed back and asked for reinforcements. They were told: There aren't any. But they did not give up. It was not in them to give up. They would not be turned back; they held the cliffs.

Two-hundred twenty-five came here. After a day of fighting only 90 could still bear arms.

I stand here today before the survivors of that battle. These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. 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.

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."

And I think I know what you're thinking right now. You're thinking, "~~But~~ We were just part of a bigger effort, and everyone was brave that day."

Everyone was. The heroism of all the Allies of D-Day was boundless, but there was another quality to it, not only of size but of spirit.

Do you remember Bill Millin of the 51st Scottish Highlanders? Forty years ago today, British troops were pinned

down near a bridge outside Caen. They were waiting desperately for reinforcements, when suddenly they heard the sound of bagpipes wafting through the air. Some of them thought it was a dream. But they looked up, and there was Bill Millin with his bagpipes, marching at the head of the reinforcements, ignoring the smack of the bullets into the sand around him. Lord Lovat was with him -- Lord Lovat of England, leading his commandos. When he got to the bridge Lord Lovat calmly announced, "Sorry I'm a few minutes late." As if he'd been delayed by bad weather or a traffic jam. When in truth he'd just come from the bloody fighting on Sword Beach, which he and his men had just taken.

There was the young Frenchman, Michel de Vallavielle, who had been confined by the Germans in his home. When the Invasion began he defied the enemy patrols, broke the curfew, and ran to the beach to tell the Allied troops where the enemy guns were hidden.

There was Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Vandervoort of the All American 82nd Airborne, who broke his leg when he parachuted on to French soil. So he commandeered a small farm cart and ordered his men to wheel him on to the battlefield.

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, the only troops who knew exactly what they would face when they hit the beaches. [Two years before, their countrymen had been slaughtered at Dieppe.] They knew what awaited them here, but they would not be deterred, and once they hit Juno Beach they never looked back.

Delete

The men of Normandy were part of a roll call 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 2nd Ranger Battalion, the Yeomen of England's armoured divisions, the forces of Free France, the Regiment de Chars de Combat, the Screaming Eagles . . .

What inspired the men of the armies that met here? What impelled them to put all thought of self-preservation behind, and risk their lives to take these beaches and hold these cliffs?

It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love. It was 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 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. They were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so they did not doubt their cause. And they were right not to doubt.

They knew that some things are worth dying for -- that one's country is worth dying for and that democracy is worth dying for, because it is the most deeply honorable form of Government ever devised by man. They loved liberty and they were happy to fight tyranny. And they knew the people of their countries were behind them.

The Americans who fought here that morning knew that word of the Invasion was spreading through the darkness back home. And they knew in their hearts, though they could not know in fact, that in Georgia they were filling the churches at 4 a.m., and 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. It was the 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 are about to do. And in another part of England that night General Mathew Ridgeway tossed on his cot and talked to his God and listened for the promise 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 West. And with that unity the West could not be stopped.

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 and above all, there was a new peace to be assured. These were huge and daunting tasks. But the Allies summoned strength from the faith and belief and loyalty and love of those who fell here. And they rebuilt a new Europe together.

There was first a great reconciliation, not only of those who had been enemies in the war, but also of those nations which had been torn for centuries by rivalries of territory and religion and power. Those rivalries were interred on these beaches.

Inspired by the gallantry of the men who fought the war, the United States created the Marshall Plan to help rebuild our

allies and our former enemies. The Marshall Plan led to the Atlantic Alliance -- a great alliance that functions to this day as a shield for democracy and for prosperity.

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

Because of this, Allied forces still stand on this continent. But our armies are here only to protect and defend democracy -- and never to take land that is not ours. The only land we hold is the graveyards where our heroes rest.

We in America have learned the bitter lessons of two world wars: that it is better to be here and ready to preserve and protect the peace, than to take blind shelter in our homes across the sea, rushing to respond only after freedom ~~is threatened~~ has been lost. We have learned that isolationism never was and never will be an acceptable response to tyrannical governments with expansionist intent.

But we try always to prepare for peace. That is why we maintain our defenses and that is why we have tried to negotiate the ~~control~~ Reduction of arms.

In truth there is no reconciliation we would welcome more than a reconciliation with the Soviet Union, so that together we can lessen the chance of conflict, now and forever.

* Insert

Insert: (on page ~~9~~ 6)

It is fitting here to remember also the great sacrifices made by the Russian people during World War II. Their terrible loss of 20 million lives testifies to all the world the necessity of avoiding another 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 man now has in his hands. I tell you we are ready to seize that beachhead -- but there must be some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, 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 -- and particularly today -- it is good and fitting for us to renew our commitment to each other, to our freedom, and to the alliance that protects it.

We are bound still by what bound us 40 years ago, bound by the same loyalties, traditions and beliefs. We are bound by reality: The strength of America's allies is still vital to the future of the United States. And the American security guarantee is still essential to the continued freedom of Europe's democracies. The Allies of 40 years ago are allies still. Your destiny is our destiny, and your hopes are our hopes.

Here, in this place where the West stood 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 Mathew Ridgeway listened: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

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

Thank you all very much.

National Security Council
The White House

11 90

System # I

Package # 4118 addn

D

MAY 30 P 1: 39

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Dep. Exec. Sec'y	1		
Bob Kimmitt	2	K	
John Poindexter	3		
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane	4	M	A
Bob Kimmitt	5	K	
NSC Secretariat	6		D
Situation Room			

I = Information (A = Action) R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

(cc:) VP Meese Baker Deaver Other Elliott

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____ (Date/Time)

Bud: Any problem with Tab I?

Good changes.

go ahead

NSC/S PROFILE UNCLASSIFIED ID 8404118

RECEIVED 21 MAY 84 20

TO MCFARLANE FROM DARMAN, R DOCDATE 21 MAY 84

SOMMER 22 MAY 84

KIMMITT 22 MAY 84

KEYWORDS: FRANCE NATO

SPEECHES DARMAN REFERRAL

SUBJECT: POINTE DU HOC ADDRESS 6 JUN

ACTION: MEMO KIMMITT TO DARMAN DUE: 25 MAY 84 STATUS X FILES WH

FOR ACTION		FOR CONCURRENCE	FOR INFO
COBB	FORTIER	MATLOCK	SOMMER
	SMALL		SHULL
			KIMMITT
			THOMPSON

COMMENTS

REF# LOG NSCIFID (VL)

ACTION OFFICER (S)		ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
Kimmitt	X	5/30	for Sig		
	—	6/1	McFarlane Approved		
	C	6/1	Kimmitt Sbd memo		COV

DISPATCH _____ W/ATTCH FILE _____ H. (C)

MEMORANDUM

4279
ADD-ON

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

21506055

SP891

ACTION

May 31, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

FROM: TYRUS W. COBB

SIGNED

SUBJECT: Omaha Beach Remarks

Attached at Tab I is a memo from you to Ben Elliott forwarding our comments on the last draft of the Omaha Beach remarks. Your memorandum, per our conversation last night, indicates that the NSC basically concurs with the speechwriters draft, but -- in view of the five-minute limit on these remarks -- makes suggestions where the speech might be reduced in length. Please note that the NSC's recommended trimming focuses on taking out a lot of the stress on Private Zanatta.

Jack Matlock, Peter Sommer and Jim Rentschler concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to Elliott at Tab I.

Approve K Disapprove ____

Attachment
Tab I - Memo to Elliott
Tab A - Omaha Beach Remarks w/suggested revisions

4279
ADD-ON

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 31, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT Bob

SUBJECT: Omaha Beach Remarks

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

Tab A - Omaha Beach Remarks w/suggested revisions

cc Dick Darman

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

May 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

FROM: TYRUS W. COBB TWC

SUBJECT: President's Draft Speech for Omaha Beach Cermonies

Attached at Tab I is a revised draft of the President's remarks for the Omaha Beach ceremonies. The original draft was written by State and the revised version by Speechwriter Tony Dolan. While Dolan's iteration was well crafted and moving, it completely eliminated two of the major themes we wished to stress on this occasion -- the sacrifices of the Allied Forces, and particularly, the role of the French Resistance. The latter theme is especially important considering that President Mitterrand will attend these ceremonies.

The revised draft, which we feel is more appropriate to the occasion, was written by State and NSC. Because of the extensive re-write we did on Dolan's version, I have attached a Kimmitt-Darman memo as opposed to a Kimmitt-Elliott.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to Darman at Tab I.

Approve K Disapprove ____

Attachments
Tab I - Memo to Darman
Tab A - Draft Speech
Tab B - Speechwriter's Draft

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD DARMAN

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT Bob

SUBJECT: President's Draft Speech for Omaha Beach Ceremonies

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

Attachment
Tab A - Draft Speech

cc: Ben Elliott

National Security Council
The White House

1186

System # I

Package # 4279

84 MAY 28 P2:01

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Dep. Exec. Sec'y			
Bob Kimmitt	1	K	
John Poindexter			
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	2		D
Situation Room			

I = Information | A = Action | R = Retain | D = Dispatch | N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: (Date/Time)

Type on Tab I

cc Ben Elliott

5/28
NSC/S –
I dispatched both
Darman & Elliott's –
Cy for file attached – KMS
No folder

National Security Council
The White House

System # I

Package # 4279 Add-on

1191

MAY 31 A11:19

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Dep. Exec. Sec'y	1		
Bob Kimmitt	2	K	
John Poindexter	X		
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall	X		
Bud McFarlane	X		A
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	3	MAY	D
Situation Room			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

NSC/S PROFILE UNCLASSIFIED ID 8404279

RECEIVED 25 MAY 84 17

TO MCFARLANE FROM DARMAN, R DOCDATE 25 MAY 84

URGENT

KEYWORDS SPEECHES FRANCE DAIR

SUBJECT: PRES REMARKS RE OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION DUE: 29 MAY 84 STATUS S FILES WH

FOR ACTION	FOR CONCURRENCE	FOR INFO
SMALL	COBB	SHULL
		FORTIER
		SOMMER
		MATLOCK

URGENT

COMMENTS RECD NSCS AT 1800 25 MAY

** DUE AT 1000 29 MAY **

REF# LOG NSCIFID (DW)

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DISPATCH MAY 31 1984 W/ATTCH FILE (C)

NSC/S PROFILE UNCLASSIFIED ID 8404279

RECEIVED 25 MAY 84 17

TO MCFARLANE FROM DARMAN, R DOCDATE 25 MAY 84

COBB 28 MAY 84

KIMMITT 28 MAY 84

KEYWORDS: FRANCE SPEECHES

DARMAN REFERRAL

SUBJECT: PRES REMARKS RE OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION DUE: 29 MAY 84 STATUS C FILES WH

FOR ACTION		FOR CONCURRENCE	FOR INFO
SMALL	COBB		SHULL
			FORTIER
			SOMMER
			MATLOCK

COMMENTS RECD NSCS AT 1800 25 MAY

** DUE AT 1000 29 MAY **

REF# LOG NSCIFID (DW HW)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
	C 5/28	Kimmitt 86d memo		CO, EL

DISPATCH 5/28 KSM W/ATTCH FILE (C)

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

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

Mr. President, Distinguished Guests:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Insert for Page 4)

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

Mr. President, Distinguished Guests:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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