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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: WH Speechwriting: Research Office Records

Archivist: jas

File Folder: President's Trip to Normandy (2) *DA 17033*

Date: 2/20/97

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>1. Briefing memo</del>	<del>Re: President's trip to Europe (11 pp.)</del> <i>R 1/9/00 NLSF96-016 #1</i>	<del>4/6/84</del>	<del>P1</del>
2. Note	Comments re: Normandy speech (2 pp.)	4/13/84	<i>PS 12/21/00</i>

**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].

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JC

(Noonan/RR)  
May 30, 1984  
2:00 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 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 roar of cannon. 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.

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 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 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.

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

Thank you all very much.

Schedules  
- Calendar -

MEMORANDUM

~~SECRET~~

Received SS

1984 APR 16 PM 12:30

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

2838

SECRET

*MC*  
*KW*

April 16, 1984

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBERT C. McFARLANE *RCM*  
SUBJECT: Your Trip to Europe -- Annotated Agenda

Issue

To acquaint you at an early stage with the themes and objectives of the major events of your visit to Europe in June.

Facts

During the recent advance trip to Europe, the NSC staff working closely with Mike Deaver's people, the Speechwriters, and State Department prepared an annotated agenda for your forthcoming trip to Europe, which is attached at Tab A for your review.

While we are still in the midst of heavy briefing for China, we thought you might wish to get a quick review of some of the themes of your European trip, which will take place one month following your trip to China.

The Department of State concurs with this package.

Recommendation

OK      No     

*ARR*

That you review the attached annotated agenda and approve the themes identified.

Attachment:

Tab A Annotated Agenda

Prepared by:  
William F. Martin  
Catherine A. Torgerson

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)  
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

BY *RP*, NARA, Date 2/20/97

SECRET  
Declassify on: OADR

cc Vice President  
Mike Deaver

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET~~

April 10, 1984

*cc: Deaver,*

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

SIGNED

FROM: WILLIAM F. MARTIN *WFM*

SUBJECT: Annotated Agenda for Europe\*

Attached at Tab I for your signature is a memorandum for the President forwarding an annotated agenda for his trip to Europe (Tab A). This agenda was closely coordinated with the Speechwriters, Advance Office, and the Department of State. It has also benefited from an extensive review by the NSC staff, particularly Peter Sommer, Ty Cobb, Roger Robinson, and Doug McMinn.

While we are currently in the midst of preparing for China, we should not lose sight of the fact that the European visit is less than two months away. As we have experienced with the President's recent visits to Japan and Korea, and now with his forthcoming trip to China, an annotated agenda is a critical coordinating tool in ensuring effective preparations by all agencies involved. Once the President has approved the approach, we will prepare a Kimmitt-Hill memorandum for transmission to State. This should be done prior to the trip to China.

Peter Sommer, Ty Cobb, Roger Robinson, Doug McMinn, and Gaston Sigur concur. *DMC*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum for the President at Tab I.

Approve ✓

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

- Tab. I Memorandum for the President
- Tab A Annotated Agenda

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)  
Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983  
NARA, Date 2/20/97

BY *[Signature]*

DECLASSIFIED

NLS F96-016 #1BY Amf, NARA, DATE 1/7/00~~SECRET~~THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO EUROPETHE SETTING

- The President's leadership in the Summit process has grown steadily since Ottawa in 1981. He has exhibited consistency and resolve in advancing a common Allied approach to key economic, trade, financial and security objectives and transformed the uncertain atmosphere surrounding Versailles into a display of unity at Williamsburg.
- By June, the President will also have made two trips to East Asia within a period of six months visiting Japan, Korea and China. This represents a dramatic demonstration of our interest in strengthening our overall relations with the Pacific community of nations, opening new avenues of cooperation with a new center of global economic activity, and enhancing the prospects for peace and prosperity in the region.
- Thus the stage is set for a very successful trip by the President to Europe. It signifies a return to our roots and a reassertion of US interest in a strong and viable Europe. In addition, the President can use this opportunity to explain further the importance he attaches to improving ties with the Soviet Union.
- The settings for the visits are colorful and dramatic. The return home to Ireland, the remembrance of Allied sacrifices forty years before in Normandy, and the historic splendor of London provide the President with an ideal backdrop for his themes of peace and prosperity and the importance of Allied support and cooperation in the achievement of both.
- Despite optimism about continued world economic recovery and Allied relations in general, the President will again face questions and some criticism of US policies. The deficit, interest and exchange rates, trade disputes and protectionism, the US stance on the Middle East and Central America, relations with the Soviet Union and arms control, will be on the minds of his seven Summit counterparts. At the same time, there has been over the past year an important convergence of US and European views on economic policies, on East-West issues, and on basic Summit issues to which we should point and on which we want to build.

OBJECTIVES

- Advance American foreign policy objectives. Reconfirm our commitment to close Allied cooperation on political and economic issues throughout the world, including European economic recovery, a strong NATO, a democratic Central America, broader relations among Pacific Basin countries, and enhanced cooperation between the democracies of the Pacific, Europe and the Americas.
- Recommitment to the "spirit of Williamsburg." Build upon the momentum of past Summits to achieve sustained non-inflationary growth, reduce trade barriers, move toward a new trade round, and strengthen the consensus on East-West economic relations.
- Reaffirmation of the role of the United States in leading world recovery. Call attention to the strength of the American economy and its positive impact in spreading economic growth to the rest of the free world.
- Bolster Allied cooperation in key areas. Pledge to work for the continued strengthening of the Alliance and be prepared, if there is an Allied consensus, to broaden cooperative efforts with initiatives such as counterterrorism, the manned-space program and the development of an approach to deal with a crisis in the Persian Gulf.
- Reaffirmation of close relations with Ireland. Stress American-Irish cultural and historical ties, mutual support of freedom and democracy, the importance of European integration (Ireland will assume the EC Presidency less than a month after the visit), Atlantic solidarity, and the necessity for a peaceful, democratic solution to the problem of Northern Ireland.
- Focus on Normandy as a landmark in the transatlantic relationship. Pay tribute to the Americans and other Allies who gave their lives in the fight for liberation and link the events at Normandy forty years ago with the reconciliation of former adversaries and the establishment of the current period of unprecedented peace and prosperity to Europe, based on the continued and continuing US commitment to the security of Europe.

AGENDA

Friday, June 1

8:20 p.m. Remarks on Arrival. (Shannon Airport; met by Prime Minister Fitzgerald -- five minutes highlighting close bonds between Ireland and the US)

Saturday, June 2

4:30 p.m. Speech at University College in Galway. (Ten-minute remarks. Audience will be representational cross-section of community.) Focus should be on Galway, an historic port village celebrating its 500th anniversary. The President will be made an honorary citizen, receive the keys to the city and be presented with an honorary doctorate from the University. The speech should emphasize the important bonds between the US and Ireland from the micro to the macro. Recommended themes:

- Tribute to West Ireland: Highlight 500th anniversary of Galway. The University College's founding in the mid-1800's coincides with the potato famine and the first wave of emigration whereby people sought new lives in the New World, including the President's great-grandfather.
- Importance of Immigration: Emphasize the economic and cultural ties and personal bonds between the President and other Irish Americans and Ireland; importance of Irish Americans to United States and the importance of Americans to Ireland today through tourism, investment, technology flow, and job creation. Emphasize cultural ties with Irish authors, poets, and playwrights; songs and musicians and friendships between citizens.
- Importance of Shared Values: Reaffirm democracy; religious freedom and rights of man; common aspirations for world peace and prosperity; importance of tolerance and rejection of violence.



Sunday, June 3

1:10 p.m.

Ballyporeen: (Reagan ancestral home. The President will attend a short church service, meet with the local clergyman, visit the Ronald Reagan Pub, view a cultural performance, and make short remarks.) Remarks should focus on returning to his roots and importance 42 million Americans attach to their ancestry, and shared values such as self-reliance, private initiative, and hard work. President could say he wants his grandchildren and great-grandchildren to visit Ballyporeen in a free and prosperous Europe.

4:20 p.m.

Arrive Dublin

Courtesy Call on President Hillary: (30 minutes) Once an active politician and former Prime Minister, Hillary now serves as a constitutional president with no governmental responsibilities. He was instrumental in getting Ireland to join the EC and has recently visited China.

State Dinner in Dublin Castle: (3-minute toast to Hillary. In addition to being the formal venue for State visits, Dublin Castle is also the site of the New Ireland Forum.) Theme of toast could be tribute to all people of good will who are trying to find peaceful solutions to world problems. The President should call attention to Ireland's cultural, religious, political, and economic contributions. Ireland's involvement with international organizations, such as EC and UN; Ireland's unique position between Europe and the United States.

Monday, June 4

Meeting with Fitzgerald: The major topic will likely be the implications of the New Ireland Forum Report (on future of Northern Ireland), which will likely be released in April. Fitzgerald may ask about US foreign policy positions and raise current European economic issues and concerns with an eye to the Summit. Ireland assumes the EC Presidency on July 1, and Fitzgerald may want to review US-EC trade problems as preparation for that responsibility.

Speech to Joint Session of the Parliament. (20 minutes; about 200 people will attend.) The President's most important speech in Europe; should be a major foreign policy address. It should be upbeat. Irish are most concerned about the state of US-Soviet relations and their vulnerable position in East-West relations. The speech should emphasize broader East-West relations, peace, arms control, and the robust nature and promise of the economic recovery. In addition, the President can present his views on present US-European relations and prospects, and look forward to the future with a sense of purpose and confidence. Some major themes should include:

-- US-Ireland: An important relationship in the past and a thriving future together. Given the youth of Irish population (average age is 25), place emphasis on reaching out to post-WWII generation. Key contribution of Ireland -- its youth and vigor. One-way flow of the last century has developed into a healthy two-way flow today -- in investment, trade, and tourism. Importance of values which we share from our common experience: democracy, freedom of the individual, free enterprise, and the family. Importance of finding peaceful, negotiated solutions to conflicts, including the Northern Ireland issue.

-- US-Europe: The problems facing Europe are not easy: unemployment, particularly among the young; industrial restructuring which is necessary for 21st century economic prosperity. It is essential that we honor the commitment made at Williamsburg and stay the course of free trade and break down barriers to open trade. America is contributing by getting our own economic house in order leading to robust economic recovery worldwide. The Atlantic Alliance is alive and well; the economic and military strength of the West provides a basis for improved relations with the East. The need for closer cooperation among industrialized nations (including Japan) to maintain deterrence, combat protectionism, promote regional order, and cope with global debt/development problems.

-- East-West Relationship: Stress our readiness for improved East-West relations and what we have done/offered to bring this about. We are willing to do our part to build a realistic relationship -- which will benefit not only those in the US and USSR, but people everywhere. Note Irish role with the United States in the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1963. We share these views today. The arms control policy of the US is not window dressing -- we are deeply dedicated not only to stopping the increase, but to total elimination of nuclear arms.

Reciprocal Lunch: (US Ambassador's residence; three-minute toast). The President will host this event as a thank you for the State Dinner the previous night.

Departure Statement: (brief remarks) A summary of his visit.

3:00 p.m.

Leave for London

Tuesday, June 5

Television Interview: (Could be either one interviewer or questions from a cross-section of British public.)

-- Key economic questions may include the US budget deficit, unemployment levels in OECD economies, cooperative actions needed by Summit countries to sustain non-inflationary growth; trade issues, particularly what do do about rising protectionism; and how to continue successfully to manage international debt problems, based on the Williamsburg understandings. Cite strong US economic recovery which is leading the world out of recession. Recall the Williamsburg Summit as a benchmark in the turnaround of world economic performance. On trade, urge continued resistance to protectionist tendencies and support for a new round of multilateral trade talks.

- Politically, paramount attention will be focused on East-West relations, the Middle East, and Central America. On East-West relations, the President should emphasize his effective defense posture which has allowed the US to negotiate from a position of equality on these crucial arms control negotiations. Stress importance of Western arms control initiatives and readiness for improved East-West relations.
  
- On Middle East issues, stress that America remains firm in its search for progress between the Arabs and the Israelis. Accordingly, we are continuing our efforts aimed at negotiations on the West Bank. At the same time the response should emphasize the commitment to Israel, affirm that we have pursued, contrary to our critics' claims, a balanced approach between Israel and the Arab states, as reflected in the very large annual aid program for Egypt and our military cooperation with Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and others.
  
- On Central America, stress our support for moderate center, against extremes of right or left, aimed at establishing democratic societies able to foster sustained economic growth. Note the importance of the CBI/Jackson Plan to deal on a fresh and innovative basis with the problems which plague Central/Caribbean region. Point toward the strategic importance in that 50 percent of manpower to reinforce Europe would have to pass through US Gulf ports.
  
- On Transatlantic Opportunities: (Poll data shows that only about 1/3 of the British feel confident about US leadership and there remains widespread antipathy towards deployment of INF.) Stress substantial majority in US approve of your efforts to rebuild America's economy and strengthen the nation's defenses. Our sustained recovery and growth is an essential anchor of prosperity for the West and makes easier the economic recovery

and further growth of our Allies. Moreover, as a contribution to Europe's defense, we have strengthened capability in Gulf -- so vital to Europe's oil flows. Emphasize importance of arms control as a key complement to restored military strength.

1:00 p.m.

Luncheon with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip  
(90 minutes)

Apart from personal discussion, the President could review East-West relations, outlook in the Middle East, and the situation in Central America. She will value, as well, a frank discussion of the American elections and plans for a second term.

6:00 p.m.

Bilateral with Margaret Thatcher: Thatcher will likely raise the Summit, East-West relations, and the Middle East. The President will want to assure her that he shares her commitment to Allied consultations and greatly values their special relationship.

-- East-West Relations: Thatcher's own instinct is to encourage resumption of serious East-West dialogue as reflected in her recent visit to Hungary and her attendance at Andropov's funeral. She will be interested in prospects for a US-Soviet summit and in ways to pursue arms control.

-- Middle East: Thatcher's objective will be to persuade the President that the US has leaned too far toward Israel at the expense of relations with Arabs, when it is clear that we need to soften Syrian rigidity and enhance Jordanian flexibility. She will counsel renewed efforts to build bridges to Arab leaders and offer Britain's good offices in support of our fundamental objectives. In the absence of any separate European initiative we would expect her to pledge full support to the President's September 1, 1982 initiative. She will also indicate that she will be prepared to be helpful in terms of naval reinforcements in the Persian Gulf.

- Summit: Thatcher's objective is to achieve a personal success as chairwoman of the proceedings. For her own domestic purposes, she will want to spotlight prospects for growth, and will be touting the UK budget adopted this year, which has a strong emphasis on the supply side, including significant tax reductions. Otherwise, we expect her to be supportive of our broad Summit objectives, in line with her past participation in these gatherings.

Wednesday, June 6

Visit to Normandy: (Three sites: Point du Hoc, the American cemetery memorial and Utah Beach.) Normandy symbolizes the US commitment to Europe, which led directly to the Atlantic Alliance. The President will make brief (10-15 minutes) remarks at the Point du Hoc ceremony to about 500 people, including veteran groups. This should be emotional, stirring, and personal. The themes include reconciliation of former adversaries, how postwar cooperation has kept the peace for the longest period in modern European history, Alliance solidarity, and the strength of the American commitment to Europe. ?

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 7-9

The London Economic Summit. (Same format and length as Williamsburg.) Main focus of meetings will be economic issues; political issues will be discussed at meals. Thatcher will again stress informality. The objective of the President will be to highlight US economic recovery and to continue to be forceful on Williamsburg themes:

- Achieve world non-inflationary growth. Ensure that non-inflationary growth is sustained through compatible macro-economic policies, a continued commitment to open markets, and a reduction of domestic economic rigidities.
- Urge further trade liberalization. Seek Allied agreement to begin planning for a multilateral round of trade-liberalizing negotiations.

- Stabilize world finance/debt situation. Obtain reiteration of the Williamsburg approach. Review the current status of the international debt crisis, including the delicate balance between economic adjustment and the political/social stability of debtor countries.
  
- Initiate international manned space station program. Provide the political framework for future detailed, technical negotiations. Seek public announcement.
  
- Political Issues. Meals and other informal occasions will be used to exchange views on global political issues, such as East-West, Middle East, Persian Gulf (including energy preparedness should Gulf oil be curtailed), etc.
  
- Counter-Terrorism. Commitment to enhanced struggle against terrorism could be announced, assuming agreement to common action in the interim in negotiations between the governments which have begun outside the Summit process.

Bilaterals. As at past Summits, there may be opportunities for the President to meet privately with some of the leaders. The major topics would include:

- Germany. Chancellor Kohl may feel a bit bruised by the Normandy commemoration, despite its emphasis on reconciliation. He will likely continue his push for an American gesture to improve the East-West political climate, with a particular focus on a US-Soviet Summit, and progressive arms control. Continuation and support of German economic recovery produced by the more market-oriented policies adopted by Kohl may also be discussed.

- France. President Mitterrand may reiterate his support for the US role in the defense of Europe, including our firm position on arms negotiations. The leaders may also emphasize the importance of continued US-French cooperation and coordination on key regional issues, such as Lebanon, Chad, and the Gulf. While Mitterrand will highlight the health of our relations, he may also voice disagreement with US policy in Central America and continuing high interest rates and deficits.
  
- Japan. During the President's state visit to Japan, Nakasone and the President discussed issues involving trade, finance, energy, security assistance, and defense. Officials from both sides have been working since November, and the two leaders will review their progress in these areas. The meeting also provides an opportunity to encourage continued movement by Japan toward an enhanced contribution to Western defense.

Sunday, June 10

10:00 a.m.

Embassy Greeting. This event will provide the President with the occasion to express his gratitude to the members of the American Foreign Service for their contribution to the life of the nation. Stress admiration for the dedication of Foreign Service officers, some of whom have tragically given their lives for their country in recent years in terrorist and other hostile acts, and the sacrifices made by wives and children of officers.



## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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)

National Security Council  
The White House

11/17/84

System # 1  
Package # 283F

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Dep. Exec. Sec'y		<u>MT</u>	
Bob Kimmitt	<u>3</u>	<u>K</u>	
John Poindexter	<u>2</u>	<u>DP</u>	
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall	<u>4</u>	<u>✓</u>	
Bud McFarlane	<u>F</u>	<u>my</u>	<u>A</u>
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	<u>6</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>D</u>
Situation Room			

I = Information    A = 1

4/13/84

h = N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese

Bud: Don makes a good point, don't think Denver et al. agreed to Normandy in part because of the opportunity to exchange consultation

COMMENTS

Bud:

I have been thinking about the conversation of yesterday on better development of a debate on ~~low intensity~~ low intensity conflicts. It strikes me though that part of the problem we will face is the media's tendency to transform all of the President's speeches in this country into political events. In reading the attached it occurs to me that the Normandy speech might be a unique opportunity

(Date/Time)

for a serious and statesmanlike  
speech on the requirements of the  
future in dealing with the trans-Atlantic  
conflict problem. Not only would the  
setting provide a certain natural  
insulation from the usual political campaign  
but it would also allow one to contrast  
the massive exercises of diplomacy  
with the more substantial, but  
equally vital, thrust in the policy,  
just a thought.

Don

DRAFT NOTIONAL SCHEDULE  
TRIP OF THE PRESIDENT TO EUROPE

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1984

8:40 a.m. Marine One departs The White House.  
8:55 a.m. Marine One arrives Andrews AFB.  
9:00 a.m. EDT Air Force One departs en route Shannon,  
Ireland.  
8:20 p.m. (L) Air Force One arrives Shannon, Ireland.  
3:20 p.m. EDT  
Arrival Ceremony with brief remarks.  
8:45 p.m. Marine One departs en route Ashford Castle.  
9:15 p.m. (L) Marine One arrives Ashford Castle.  
4:15 p.m. EDT  
RON - ASHFORD CASTLE

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1984

WASHINGTON WORK.

3:00 p.m. (L) Marine One departs en route Galway.  
10:00 a.m. EDT  
3:15 p.m. Marine One arrives Galway landing zone.  
3:20 p.m. Depart en route University College, Galway.  
NOTE: Drive-by Eyre Square.  
3:35 p.m. Arrive University College, Galway.  
3:50 p.m. (L) University College Ceremony.  
10:50 a.m. EDT  
THE PRESIDENT makes remarks.  
4:45 p.m. Depart en route landing zone.  
5:00 p.m. Marine One departs en route Ashford Castle.  
5:15 p.m. (L) Marine One arrives Ashford Castle.  
12:15 p.m. EDT  
RON - ASHFORD CASTLE

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1984

Morning

WASHINGTON WORK.

12:10 p.m. (L)  
7:10 a.m. EDT

Marine One departs en route Ballyporeen.

NOTE: Fly-by Templetenny Cemetery.

1:10 p.m.

Marine One arrives Ballyporeen.

1:15 p.m. (L)  
8:15 a.m. EDT

Courtesy Call on Father Murphy, Church of the Assumption of Our Lady Rectory.

1:30 p.m. (L)  
8:30 a.m. EDT

Church Service, Church of the Assumption of Our Lady.

1:55 p.m. (L)  
8:55 a.m. EDT

Viewing of Church records outside Church.

2:00 p.m. (L)  
9:00 a.m. EDT

Walk to Farrell's Pub.

NOTE: Crowd situation.

2:05 p.m. (L)  
9:05 a.m. EDT

Arrive Farrell's Pub.

2:15 p.m. (L)  
9:15 a.m. EDT

Cultural Performance and presentation from Town Committee, Village Square.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks.

2:50 p.m.

Depart en route landing zone.

3:00 p.m. (L)  
10:00 a.m. EDT

Marine One departs en route Dublin.

3:55 p.m. (L)  
10:55 a.m. EDT

Marine One arrives Deerfield landing zone.

PRIVATE TIME: 25 mins.

4:30 p.m.

Depart en route Aras an Uachtarain (President Hillary's residence).

4:35 p.m.

Arrive Aras an Uachtarain.

4:40 p.m. (L)  
11:40 a.m. EDT

Private meeting with President Hillary.

5:00 p.m. (L)  
12:00 noon EDT

Photo opportunity with President and Mrs. Hillary.

*Possible Industrial (Digital?) Dropby*

Proceed to Drawing Room for tea.

5:15 p.m. (L)  
12:15 p.m. EDT

Depart en route tree planting site.

Tree Planting Ceremony with President  
Hillary.

5:30 p.m.

Depart en route Deerfield.

5:35 p.m.

Arrive Deerfield.

WASHINGTON WORK: 2 hrs.

Remarks? - Freedom Award

7:45 p.m.

Depart en route Dublin Castle.

8:00 p.m. (L)

Arrive Dublin Castle.

3:00 p.m. EDT

State dinner hosted by Prime Minister and  
Mrs. FitzGerald.

Toasts.

10:30 p.m.

Depart en route Deerfield.

10:45 p.m. (L)

Arrive Deerfield.

5:45 p.m. EDT

RON - DEERFIELD

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1984

Morning

Working breakfast.

NOTE: 9:45 a.m. Mrs. Reagan  
departs en route Royal College of  
Surgeons.

10:55 a.m.

Depart en route Leinster House.

11:10 a.m.

Arrive Leinster House.

11:20 a.m. (L)

Meeting with Prime Minister FitzGerald.

6:20 a.m. EDT

NOTE: Mrs. Reagan arrives  
Leinster House.

12:00 noon (L)

Address Joint Session of Parliament.

7:00 a.m. EDT

12:35 a.m. Depart en route Deerfield.

12:50 p.m. Arrive Deerfield.

PRIVATE TIME: 20 mins.

1:15 p.m. Proceed to Coral Sitting Room.

1:20 p.m. Arrive Coral Sitting Room and form receiving line.

1:30 p.m. Proceed to Ballroom.

1:35 p.m. (L) Arrive Ballroom for Reciprocal Luncheon in  
8:35 a.m. EDT honor of Prime Minister FitzGerald.

Toasts (beginning of lunch).

2:45 p.m. Luncheon concludes.

2:55 p.m. Depart en route Dublin Airport.

3:10 p.m. Arrive Dublin Airport.

Departure ceremony with brief remarks.

3:30 p.m. (L) Air Force One departs en route London,  
10:30 a.m. EDT England.

4:30 p.m. (L) Air Force One arrives London, England.  
11:30 a.m. EDT

4:35 p.m. Marine One departs en route Winfield House.

4:50 p.m. Marine One arrives Winfield House.

WASHINGTON WORK: 45 mins.

5:35 p.m. Depart en route Kensington Palace.

5:45 p.m. (L) Arrive Kensington Palace.  
12:45 p.m. EDT

Official Welcoming Ceremony.

6:00 p.m. Proceed to Orangery for tea hosted by Prime Minister Thatcher.

6:15 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

6:25 p.m. (L) Arrive Winfield House.  
1:25 p.m. EDT

Evening Private dinner.

RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1984

Morning Working breakfast.

WASHINGTON WORK

12:50 p.m. Depart en route Buckingham Palace.

1:00 p.m. (L) Arrive Buckingham Palace.

8:00 a.m. EDT

Private Luncheon with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

2:35 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

2:45 p.m. Arrive Winfield House.

WASHINGTON WORK: 3 hrs.

NOTE: TV interview to be scheduled during WASHINGTON WORK, plus possibility of scheduling press reception and/or Embassy proposed event.

5:45 p.m. Depart en route #10 Downing Street.

5:55 p.m. Arrive #10 Downing Street.

6:00 p.m. (L) Bilateral (one on one) with Prime Minister Thatcher.  
1:00 p.m. EDT

7:00 p.m. Reception hosted by Prime Minister Thatcher.

7:30 p.m. Working dinner hosted by Prime Minister Thatcher.

NOTE: Approximately 12 guests, 6 from each side, will be in attendance.

(TOAST? - no press)

9:00 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.



9:10 p.m. (L)  
4:10 p.m. EDT

Arrive Winfield House.

RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

Morning

Working breakfast.

WASHINGTON WORK.

[An event  
w/ citizens?]

12:00 noon (L)  
7:00 a.m. EDT

Marine One departs en route Normandy, France.

NOTE: Time Change is + 1 hr.

2:20 p.m. (L)  
8:20 a.m. EDT

Marine One arrives Pointe du Hoc landing zone, Normandy, France.

2:30 p.m. (L)  
8:30 a.m. EDT

Tour of Ranger Memorial.

2:40 p.m. (L)  
8:40 a.m. EDT

Remarks to assembled Veterans and unveiling of plaque commemorating Point du Hoc.

(after Mitterrand)

2:55 p.m.

Depart en route landing zone.

3:00 p.m.

Marine One departs en route Omaha Beach landing zone.

3:10 p.m.

Marine One arrives Omaha Beach.

3:15 p.m.

Depart en route Visitors' Center.

3:20 p.m.

Arrive Visitors' Center.

PRIVATE TIME: 10 mins.

3:40 p.m.

Depart en route Chapel.

3:45 p.m. (L)  
9:45 a.m. EDT

Arrive Chapel for silent prayer.

3:50 p.m.

Proceed to Roosevelt Brothers' Gravesite.

3:55 p.m. (L)  
9:55 a.m. EDT

Arrive Roosevelt Brothers' Gravesite for wreath/flower laying.

4:00 p.m. Depart en route Visitors' Center.

4:05 p.m. Arrive Visitors' Center.

Greet President Mitterrand.

4:10 p.m. (L) Proceed to Omaha Beach Memorial for Joint  
10:10 a.m. EDT Ceremony with brief remarks.

4:35 pm Ceremony concludes. President Mitterrand departs.

4:40 p.m. Marine One departs en route Utah Beach.

4:55 p.m. Marine One arrives Utah Beach. *- From Stage*

5:00 p.m. (L) Utah Beach Ceremony with six Heads of *- 1 roops in front*  
11:00 a.m. EDT State/Government (France, Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Canada, Great Britain). *- Walk on beach?*  
*(Remarks? - 3 min.?)*

6:10 p.m. (L) Marine One departs en route London, England.  
12:10 p.m. EDT

NOTE: Time change is - 1 hr.

6:30 p.m. (L) Marine One arrives Winfield House.  
1:30 p.m. EDT

RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1984

Morning Working breakfast.

Summit briefings.

Afternoon Bilaterals.

WASHINGTON WORK.

7:25 p.m. Depart en route St. James Palace.

7:30 p.m. (L) Arrive St. James Palace for Reception.  
2:30 p.m. EDT with Summit Leaders.

Photo opportunity with Prime Minister Thatcher.

7:55 p.m. Depart en route #10 Downing Street.

8:00 p.m. (L) Arrive #10 Downing Street.  
3:00 p.m. EDT  
Working dinner with Summit Heads of  
Delegation.  
10:15 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.  
10:25 p.m. (L) Arrive Winfield House.  
5:25 p.m. EDT  
RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1984

Morning Working breakfast.  
9:20 a.m. (L) Depart en route Lancaster House.  
4:20 a.m. EDT  
9:30 a.m. (L) Arrive Lancaster House.  
4:30 a.m. EDT  
Group photo with Summit Leaders.  
10:00 a.m. (L) Meeting with Summit Heads of  
5:00 a.m. EDT Delegation.  
12:30 p.m. Proceed to Committee Room (US Delegation  
Room).  
WASHINGTON WORK: 20 mins.  
1:00 p.m. (L) Working Luncheon with Heads of Delegation.  
8:00 a.m. EDT  
2:30 p.m. (L) Plenary Session.  
9:30 a.m. EDT  
5:05 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.  
5:15 p.m. Arrive Winfield House.  
WASHINGTON WORK: 2 hrs. 30 mins.  
7:50 p.m. Depart en route National Portrait Gallery.  
8:00 p.m. (L) Arrive National Portrait Gallery for working  
3:00 p.m. EDT dinner with Summit Leaders.  
10:15 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

10:25 p.m. (L) Arrive Winfield House.  
5:25 p.m. EDT  
RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1984

Morning Working breakfast.

9:20 a.m. (L) Depart en route Lancaster House.  
4:20 a.m. EDT

9:30 a.m. Arrive Lancaster House.  
Meeting with Summit Heads of Delegation.

12:30 p.m. (L) Proceed to Committee Room (US Delegation  
7:30 a.m. EDT Room).

WASHINGTON WORK: 20 mins.

1:00 p.m. Working Luncheon with Heads of Delegation.

2:35 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

2:45 p.m. Arrive Winfield House.  
WASHINGTON WORK: 35 mins.

3:25 p.m. Depart en route Guild Hall.

3:40 p.m. (L) Arrive Guild Hall for Reception with Summit  
10:40 a.m. EDT Leaders.

4:05 p.m. (L) Joint Press Statement.  
11:05 a.m. EDT

4:25 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

4:40 p.m. Arrive Winfield House.  
WASHINGTON WORK: 3 hrs. 30 mins.

8:15 p.m. Depart en route Buckingham Palace.

8:30 p.m. (L) Arrive Buckingham Palace for State Dinner.  
3:30 p.m. EDT

10:45 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

11:00 p.m. (L)  
6:00 p.m. EDT

Arrive Winfield House.

RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 1984

10:00 a.m. (L)  
5:00 a.m. EDT

Proceed to Winfield Terrace.

Meet with Embassy personnel.

THE PRESIDENT makes brief remarks.

10:25 a.m.

Proceed to Marine One for boarding.

10:30 a.m.

Marine One departs en route Heathrow Airport.

10:45 a.m.

Marine One arrives Heathrow Airport.

10:50 a.m. (L)  
5:50 a.m. EDT

Air Force One departs en route Andrews AFB.

1:40 p.m. EDT

Air Force One arrives Andrews AFB.

1:45 p.m.

Marine One departs en route The White House.

2:00 p.m.

Marine One arrives The White House.

# PRESIDENT'S EUROPE TRIP

## MAY 1984

As of May 3, 1984

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 First drafts of Irish/ Normandy Major Speeches from State Video Script from CIA	3	4	5
6	7 Other Public Statements from State (to be edited by Speechwriters)	8	9	10	11 Bilateral Briefing Book from State	12
13	14 T Pres. Mtg. w/Sherpa Team Provide Public Statements for Agency Review SS	15 Summit Briefing Book from State SS	16 SS	17 NSC Revised Briefing Books (Bilateral, Summit) to McFarlane	18 NSC Revised Briefing Books to Pres./Sr. Staff Agency Comments on Public Statements Due	19 President Reviews Brfg. Books
20	21 Speechwriters provide Public Statements to Pres. to RR	22 Briefing Video from CIA	23	24	25 Final Form Briefing Materials from State 60 min. NSC Briefing on Ireland/ Normandy (film shown)	26 Pres. completes review of public statements
27	28 Video Available for Sr. Staff Review	29 T 3 hr. NSC Brfg. on Political/Economic agendas London Summit	30	31 T 60 min. NSC Brfg on Mtgs w/Thatcher and Nakasone NSC Distributes Final Brfg. Books to Pres./Sr. Staff		

# PRESIDENT'S EUROPE TRIP

## JUNE 1984

As of May 3, 1984

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> 9:00 AF1 departs Andrews AFB  8:20 AF1 arrives Shannon, Ireland, Arrival Ceremony with Brief Remarks 9:15 Arrive Ashford Castle	<b>2</b>  3:15 Arrive Galway 3:30 University College Ceremony, Remarks  5:15 Arrive Ashford Castle
<b>3</b> 1:10 Arrive Ballyporeen. Visit Church, Pub, and Town Center 3:00 Depart Ballyporeen for Dublin 4:40 Private Mtg. with Pres. Hillary  7:55 Dublin Castle for State Dinner, Toasts	<b>4</b> 11:20 Mtg. /FitzGerald at Leinster House 12:00 Add. Joint Session of Parliament 1:30 Luncheon f/FitzGerald at Deerfield, Toasts 3:10 Depart Dublin, Cere. and Remarks 4:30 AF1 Arrives London 6:00 Welcoming Cere. & Tea w/Thatcher at Kensington Palace	<b>5</b>  1:00 Private Lunch w/Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip  Afternoon: TV Interview 6:00 Thatcher Bilateral at Downing Street 7:30 Working Dinner with Thatcher	<b>6</b> Morning: Possible Nakasone Mtg. 12:00 Depart Normandy 2:40 Remarks at Point du Hoc 4:05 Omaha Beach Ceremony w/Mitterrand, Remarks Utah Beach Heads 4:55 Ceremony., Brief Remarks 6:10 Depart Normandy 6:30 Arrive Winfield House, London	<b>7</b> Morning: Summit Briefing  Afternoon: Bilaterals  7:30 Summit Leaders Recpt. at St. James 8:00 Leaders Working Dinner at Downing Street	<b>8</b>  10:00 Meet with Leaders at Lancaster House  1:00 Working Luncheon 2:30 Plenary Session 8:00 Working Dinner at National Portrait Gallery	<b>9</b> 9:30 Mtg. with Heads at Lancaster House  1:00 Working Luncheon 3:40 Reception at Guild Hall, Joint Press Statement  8:00 State Dinner at Buckingham Palace
<b>10</b> 10:00 Remarks to Embassy Personnel 10:30 Depart London  1:40 (EDT) AF1 Arrive Andrews AFB	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Through the words <sup>of</sup> 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.

## Things to bring up to Peggy -

Per conversation with  
Greg Terry - Advice

ask him to keep his eye  
on that stand

(#1) References to "the West" on pp. 1;5 are perhaps misleading - we must recall that Germany is considered now a part of "the West" and that East-West is generally ~~not~~ used in a post-Cold War context (which had not really developed at the time of the Invasion).

(2) "Jews cried out in the camps..." has struck some as a demeaning way of expressing their plight (and it might be seen as a political ploy to talk of it here - I don't know that the Normandy landings were ever described as aiming to rescue the Jews in the camps -) (p.1)

(3) The President will be the ~~of~~ only one actually standing (the Secret Service will probably have some men standing to, but the audience will all be seated)  
p.1 & 2 line 1

(4) Phil Rivers - do we want to emphasize the British landing craft?

(5) see about tightening up the last few lines of #2 p.1)

(6) 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of #3 is a little awkward. - there are so many "ands" in those lines - in fact, the whole #

(7) p. 2 - Change back to 2 days of fighting (per Ranger historian) or to "By the time reinforcements arrived..."

(8) - Dagger description is great - very helpful

(9) Where did Spenser poem come from?



- (9) p. 2 ¶ 7 - all the thinking could get confusing
- (10) p. 2 ¶ 5 - ~~to the~~ these are ... - this is liable to lead reporters to present this as a media show rather than an address directed toward the Rangers (who are sitting right there)
- (11) where does Lord Lovat indicate he's English - also - where does "Scottish" come into title of Highlanders? can't verify either yet.
- (12) Bill Millin & Lovat's Commandos were walking in on a road - can't find indicators of sound there also text says he couldn't hear much over the sound of his bagpipes.
- (13) VANDERVOORT was played by John Wayne in the movie and ~~is~~ it's apparently a well-known story (along w/) parachutist on church steeple)
- (14) Kirk note - apparently the CANADIANS are still very sensitive to Dieppe incident - feeling they were sacrificed by other Allied leaders - caution in use of slaughtered.
- (15) COMMON NAME of Charn de Combat was ... (p. 4)
- (16) ¶ 2 of p. 4 - risk lives is ~~not~~ even more forceful if we don't talk about thoughts of self-preservation behind - ~~its~~ it's implicit
- (17) p. 4 ¶ last ¶ - several question use of "happy" and suggest [willing] changes the typical sentiment better
- 18 p. 5 - Ridgway story would be more powerful if not prefaced by Holzer ton or description of when

p. 5 - again - watch for THE WEST

p. 7 - # 4 - FOREVER - what does this suggest -  
no real hope or expectation of the change?

p. 7 - Allies of 40 years ago - did they include the  
Soviets?

p. 8 - ~~That~~ could be more forceful ~~if~~ shorter.

DRAFT NOTIONAL SCHEDULE

TRIP OF THE PRESIDENT TO EUROPE

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1984

8:40 a.m. Marine One departs The White House.  
8:55 a.m. Marine One arrives Andrews AFB.  
9:00 a.m. EDT Air Force One departs en route Shannon, Ireland.  
8:20 p.m. (L) Air Force One arrives Shannon, Ireland.  
3:20 p.m. EDT  
Arrival Ceremony with brief remarks.  
8:45 p.m. Marine One departs en route Ashford Castle.  
9:15 p.m. (L) Marine One arrives Ashford Castle.  
4:15 p.m. EDT  
RON - ASHFORD CASTLE

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1984

WASHINGTON WORK.

3:00 p.m. (L) Marine One departs en route Galway.  
10:00 a.m. EDT  
3:15 p.m. Marine One arrives Galway landing zone.  
3:20 p.m. Depart en route University College, Galway.  
NOTE: Drive-by Eyre Square.  
3:35 p.m. Arrive University College, Galway.  
3:50 p.m. (L) University College Ceremony.  
10:50 a.m. EDT  
THE PRESIDENT makes remarks.  
4:45 p.m. Depart en route landing zone.  
5:00 p.m. Marine One departs en route Ashford Castle.  
5:15 p.m. (L) Marine One arrives Ashford Castle.  
12:15 p.m. EDT  
RON - ASHFORD CASTLE

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1984

Morning

WASHINGTON WORK.

12:10 p.m. (L) Marine One departs en route Ballyporeen.  
7:10 a.m. EDT

NOTE: Fly-by Templetenny Cemetery.

1:10 p.m. Marine One arrives Ballyporeen.

1:15 p.m. (L) Courtesy Call on Father Murphy, Church of  
8:15 a.m. EDT the Assumption of Our Lady Rectory.

1:30 p.m. (L) Church Service, Church of the  
8:30 a.m. EDT Assumption of Our Lady.

1:55 p.m. (L) Viewing of Church records outside Church.  
8:55 a.m. EDT

2:00 p.m. (L) Walk to Farrell's Pub.  
9:00 a.m. EDT

NOTE: Crowd situation.

2:05 p.m. (L) Arrive Farrell's Pub.  
9:05 a.m. EDT

2:15 p.m. (L) Cultural Performance and presentation from  
9:15 a.m. EDT Town Committee, Village Square.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks.

2:50 p.m. Depart en route landing zone.

3:00 p.m. (L) Marine One departs en route Dublin.  
10:00 a.m. EDT

3:55 p.m. (L) Marine One arrives Deerfield landing zone.  
10:55 a.m. EDT

PRIVATE TIME: 25 mins.

4:30 p.m. Depart en route Aras an Uachtarain  
(President Hillary's residence).

4:35 p.m. Arrive Aras an Uachtarain.

4:40 p.m. (L) Private meeting with President Hillary.  
11:40 a.m. EDT

5:00 p.m. (L) Photo opportunity with President and Mrs.  
12:00 noon EDT Hillary.

*Possible Industrial (Digital?) Dropby*



12:35 a.m. Depart en route Deerfield.

12:50 p.m. Arrive Deerfield.

PRIVATE TIME: 20 mins.

1:15 p.m. Proceed to Coral Sitting Room.

1:20 p.m. Arrive Coral Sitting Room and form receiving line.

1:30 p.m. Proceed to Ballroom.

1:35 p.m. (L) Arrive Ballroom for Reciprocal Luncheon in  
8:35 a.m. EDT honor of Prime Minister FitzGerald.

Toasts (beginning of lunch).

2:45 p.m. Luncheon concludes.

2:55 p.m. Depart en route Dublin Airport.

3:10 p.m. Arrive Dublin Airport.

Departure ceremony with brief remarks.

3:30 p.m. (L) Air Force One departs en route London,  
10:30 a.m. EDT England.

4:30 p.m. (L) Air Force One arrives London, England.  
11:30 a.m. EDT

4:35 p.m. Marine One departs en route Winfield House.

4:50 p.m. Marine One arrives Winfield House.

WASHINGTON WORK: 45 mins.

5:35 p.m. Depart en route Kensington Palace.

5:45 p.m. (L) Arrive Kensington Palace.  
12:45 p.m. EDT

Official Welcoming Ceremony.

6:00 p.m. Proceed to Orangery for tea hosted by Prime Minister Thatcher.

6:15 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

6:25 p.m. (L)  
1:25 p.m. EDT

Arrive Winfield House.

Evening

Private dinner.

RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1984

Morning

Working breakfast.

WASHINGTON WORK

12:50 p.m.

Depart en route Buckingham Palace.

1:00 p.m. (L)  
8:00 a.m. EDT

Arrive Buckingham Palace.

Private Luncheon with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

2:35 p.m.

Depart en route Winfield House.

2:45 p.m.

Arrive Winfield House.

WASHINGTON WORK: 3 hrs.

NOTE: TV interview to be scheduled during WASHINGTON WORK, plus possibility of scheduling press reception and/or Embassy proposed event.

5:45 p.m.

Depart en route #10 Downing Street.

5:55 p.m.

Arrive #10 Downing Street.

6:00 p.m. (L)  
1:00 p.m. EDT

Bilateral (one on one) with Prime Minister Thatcher.

7:00 p.m.

Reception hosted by Prime Minister Thatcher.

7:30 p.m.

Working dinner hosted by Prime Minister Thatcher.

NOTE: Approximately 12 guests, 6 from each side, will be in attendance.

(TOAST? - no press)

9:00 p.m.

Depart en route Winfield House.

9:10 p.m. (L)  
4:10 p.m. EDT

Arrive Winfield House.

RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

Morning

Working breakfast.

WASHINGTON WORK.

[An event  
w/ citizens?]

12:00 noon(L)  
7:00 a.m. EDT

Marine One departs en route Normandy, France.

NOTE: Time Change is + 1 hr.

2:20 p.m. (L)  
8:20 a.m. EDT

Marine One arrives Pointe du Hoc landing zone, Normandy, France.

2:30 p.m. (L)  
8:30 a.m. EDT

Tour of Ranger Memorial.

2:40 p.m. (L)  
8:40 a.m. EDT

Remarks to assembled Veterans and unveiling of plaque commemorating Point du Hoc.

(after Ditterrand)

2:55 p.m.

Depart en route landing zone.

3:00 p.m.

Marine One departs en route Omaha Beach landing zone.

3:10 p.m.

Marine One arrives Omaha Beach.

3:15 p.m.

Depart en route Visitors' Center.

3:20 p.m.

Arrive Visitors' Center.

PRIVATE TIME: 10 mins.

3:40 p.m.

Depart en route Chapel.

3:45 p.m. (L)  
9:45 a.m. EDT

Arrive Chapel for silent prayer.

3:50 p.m.

Proceed to Roosevelt Brothers' Gravesite.

3:55 p.m. (L)  
9:55 a.m. EDT

Arrive Roosevelt Brothers' Gravesite for wreath/flower laying.

4:00 p.m. Depart en route Visitors' Center.

4:05 p.m. Arrive Visitors' Center.  
Greet President Mitterrand.

4:10 p.m. (L) Proceed to Omaha Beach Memorial for Joint  
10:10 a.m. EDT Ceremony with brief remarks.

4:35 pm Ceremony concludes. President Mitterrand departs.

4:40 p.m. Marine One departs en route Utah Beach.

4:55 p.m. Marine One arrives Utah Beach. *- From Stage*

5:00 p.m. (L) Utah Beach Ceremony with six Heads of *- 1 roops in front*  
11:00 a.m. EDT State/Government (France, Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Canada, Great Britain) *- Walk on beach?*  
*(Remarks? - 3 min.?)*

6:10 p.m. (L) Marine One departs en route London, England.  
12:10 p.m. EDT

NOTE: Time change is - 1 hr.

6:30 p.m. (L) Marine One arrives Winfield House.  
1:30 p.m. EDT  
RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1984

Morning Working breakfast.  
Summit briefings.

Afternoon Bilaterals.  
WASHINGTON WORK.

7:25 p.m. Depart en route St. James Palace.

7:30 p.m. (L) Arrive St. James Palace for Reception.  
2:30 p.m. EDT with Summit Leaders.  
Photo opportunity with Prime Minister Thatcher.

7:55 p.m. Depart en route #10 Downing Street.

8:00 p.m. (L) Arrive #10 Downing Street.  
 3:00 p.m. EDT Working dinner with Summit Heads of Delegation.

10:15 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

10:25 p.m. (L) Arrive Winfield House.  
 5:25 p.m. EDT  
 RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1984

Morning Working breakfast.

9:20 a.m. (L) Depart en route Lancaster House.  
 4:20 a.m. EDT

9:30 a.m. (L) Arrive Lancaster House.  
 4:30 a.m. EDT  
 Group photo with Summit Leaders.

10:00 a.m. (L) Meeting with Summit Heads of Delegation.  
 5:00 a.m. EDT

12:30 p.m. Proceed to Committee Room (US Delegation Room).  
 WASHINGTON WORK: 20 mins.

1:00 p.m. (L) Working Luncheon with Heads of Delegation.  
 8:00 a.m. EDT

2:30 p.m. (L) Plenary Session.  
 9:30 a.m. EDT

5:05 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

5:15 p.m. Arrive Winfield House.  
 WASHINGTON WORK: 2 hrs. 30 mins.

7:50 p.m. Depart en route National Portrait Gallery.

8:00 p.m. (L) Arrive National Portrait Gallery for working dinner with Summit Leaders.  
 3:00 p.m. EDT

10:15 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

10:25 p.m. (L) Arrive Winfield House.  
5:25 p.m. EDT  
RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1984

Morning Working breakfast.

9:20 a.m. (L) Depart en route Lancaster House.  
4:20 a.m. EDT

9:30 a.m. Arrive Lancaster House.  
Meeting with Summit Heads of Delegation.

12:30 p.m. (L) Proceed to Committee Room (US Delegation  
7:30 a.m. EDT Room).

WASHINGTON WORK: 20 mins.

1:00 p.m. Working Luncheon with Heads of Delegation.

2:35 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

2:45 p.m. Arrive Winfield House.  
WASHINGTON WORK: 35 mins.

3:25 p.m. Depart en route Guild Hall.

3:40 p.m. (L) Arrive Guild Hall for Reception with Summit  
10:40 a.m. EDT Leaders.

4:05 p.m. (L) Joint Press Statement.  
11:05 a.m. EDT

4:25 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

4:40 p.m. Arrive Winfield House.  
WASHINGTON WORK: 3 hrs. 30 mins.

8:15 p.m. Depart en route Buckingham Palace.

8:30 p.m. (L) Arrive Buckingham Palace for State Dinner.  
3:30 p.m. EDT

10:45 p.m. Depart en route Winfield House.

11:00 p.m. (L)  
6:00 p.m. EDT

Arrive Winfield House.

RON - WINFIELD HOUSE

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 1984

10:00 a.m. (L)  
5:00 a.m. EDT

Proceed to Winfield Terrace.

Meet with Embassy personnel.

THE PRESIDENT makes brief remarks.

10:25 a.m.

Proceed to Marine One for boarding.

10:30 a.m.

Marine One departs en route Heathrow Airport.

10:45 a.m.

Marine One arrives Heathrow Airport.

10:50 a.m. (L)  
5:50 a.m. EDT

Air Force One departs en route Andrews AFB.

1:40 p.m. EDT

Air Force One arrives Andrews AFB.

1:45 p.m.

Marine One departs en route The White House.

2:00 p.m.

Marine One arrives The White House.

# The Normandy Landings

English edition



Général Jean Compagnon

ouest  
france 



General Jean Compagnon

# The Normandy Landings

Photographs : Hervé Champollion  
and French Air Force

Translated by Paul Williams

ouest  
france 

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## Holiday beaches

"Langrune, Saint-Aubin, Arromanches, these were the holiday villages of yesteryear. We would rush there every year at Whitsun to make sure that the wide open sea was still there and to breathe. Perhaps liberty is no more than a certain fullness in one's breathing, the continuous awareness of a vast espace where energy, dreaming, the right to be oneself can have full rein." JEAN GUÉHENNO.

And today, the sandy beaches, the flowering fields and the green woodlands of

Normandy evoke once more the true sweetness of living in freedom. But the many dishevelled ruins of blockhouses that once constituted the "Atlantic Wall", and the calm and moving cemeteries dotted here and there where 20-year-old heroes rest, recall to mind that on June 6, 1944, along this stretch of coastline, Europe's door of liberty was swung open again.

### **Arromanches**

The town and port of Arromanches from Manvieux cliff. Above Arromanches, Saint-Côme hill that separates Arromanches from the beaches of Asnelles-Le-Hamel ("Gold") stands at the centre of the landing zone. It is dominated by a look-out post and a huge statue of the Virgin that stands out clearly in the photograph.

« We shall give whatever help  
we can to Russia »

WINSTON CHURCHILL  
June 23, 1941

Since July 1940 the German army had been present along the coasts of the English Channel and the Atlantic; in June 1941 it attacked the U.S.S.R. and occupied the whole of Europe except Spain. In mid-1942 the German advance was finally contained in Russia, the Middle East, Africa and the Mediterranean, while at the same time the American forces halted the Japanese advance in the middle of the Pacific at Midway. It was at this time that the idea of opening up a second front in Western Europe was devised in order to go to the assistance of the Soviets and to free Europe from the clutches of Hitler.

A landing in the face of a strong German army firmly entrenched in the "Atlantic Wall", which Hitler began to build from Holland to Bidasoa in 1940, demanded extremely detailed planning and special new equipment. Ever since 1940 Churchill had realised that one day the Channel would have to be crossed. He formed a special department for "combined operations" to study the technicalities involved in a landing. In 1941 he placed Captain Mountbatten in command of it.

« The second front will be established  
in Normandy »

In January 1943 at the Casablanca conference, two months after the landing in North Africa, Churchill and Roosevelt decided to establish a unit known as "Cossac" whose brief was to draw up a definite plan for a landing. In August 1943 they decided that this landing, to be known as "Overlord", would take place in Normandy between May and July. Cossac arrived at this choice of

time and place after much careful research and intelligence soundings along the coasts of Europe from Denmark to Spain. In fact, only two locations were possible: the Picardy coast from the Pas-de-Calais to Dieppe; the lower Normandy coast between Le Havre and Cherbourg. Factors in favour of the more northerly location were: the proximity of the English coast allowed for a short crossing

#### **The British Cemetery at Ranville**

In the middle of the landing zone of General Gale's 6th air division, numerous British parachutists rest in the shadow of Ranville church. Quietly moving, it is one of the numerous British cemeteries that mark the different stages of the battle for Caen that lasted from the afternoon of June 6 till July 9.





and straightforward, more dense, air cover ; German industrial and political strategic objectives were near at hand and could be destroyed more quickly, thus contributing to the collapse of Nazi Germany. For these same reasons, the German defences of the Pas-de-Calais, since they were the first to be built, were the strongest, and German reserves were able to intervene in greater numbers and with the minimum of delay.

In lower Normandy the approach by sea and the beaches allowed for the possibility of a good landing. Defence works were less advanced there. The English coast directly opposite had a large number of ports from which to embark. Cutting off the German forces by bombing bridges over the Seine and the Loire, combined with destructive guerilla action by the French Resistance, should be relatively easy. These advantages outweighed the inconvenience of a wider manoeuvre across France that would take longer, but which would benefit from the

assistance of French underground forces. It was true that the territory beyond the beaches was wooded and therefore easily defended, but this tactical difficulty was negligible alongside the quality of the beaches. Lower Normandy was chosen.

At the end of spring and the beginning of summer the days usually are clear and long, and the sea is calm. A landing at this time of year would involve a satisfactory time lapse: 9 or 10 months of preparation, and 6 months for the completion of its final objective before the winter - Germany. The second front was to be established in Normandy between May and July 1944.

In December 1943, General Eisenhower, then commander in the Mediterranean, received the supreme command for the organisation of the liberation of Europe, "Overlord", the first stage of which, the landings in Normandy, was to be called "Neptune".

## The German defence The energy of Rommel

In January 1944 Field Marshal Rommel, hero of the Afrika Korps, received the command of the B Army Group, charged to defend the coast between St. Nazaire and Holland inclusively. He was under the orders of Field Marshal von Rundstedt, Commander in Chief in the West. His resources consisted of defensive installations, forces disposed along the coast and some reserves in the north west of France.

The main object of the "Atlantic Wall" was to cover all the coasts of the North Sea, the Channel and the Atlantic with reinforced

concrete fortifications and accessory defences. All the preparations for an offensive in the Pas-de-Calais, that were turned towards England in 1940, became defensive in 1941 to protect the heart of Germany against what would be the shortest advance. They were therefore considerable. In Normandy, far from being negligible, as shown by their remains more than 30 years afterwards, they were not yet finished. In the first place, in the sea, in front of the beaches were mines of different sorts whose efficacy would in fact be minimal. On the beaches themselves there were numerous obstacles of different

### **Pegasus Bridge - the bridge at Bénouville.**

It was taken on June 6 at 0025 hours by Major Howard and his men who landed in gliders less than 50 metres from the bridge (to the right of the photograph).





types: spikes and piles of different sizes, submerged and invisible at high tide; square concrete blocks 1.50 metres high; piles or stakes interspersed with land mines; wire entanglements; iron stakes and square metal blocks; concrete walls to stop armoured vehicles from leaving the beach. On the dunes defensive pill-boxes protected the troops whose automatic arms and cannon fire rained down on the beach. Inland, between Caen and the stronghold of Cherbourg, a dozen batteries dug in and fortified like those of St. Maclouf and Merville were within range of the beaches and could even hit the landing craft when still at sea.

On taking command, Rommel discovered that there had been all manner of delays and loopholes concerning the setting up of this defence network: the building work was incomplete through lack of man-power or unwillingness on the part of the French workers employed; supplies of materials, arms and mines were lacking because of the priority given to the East front, and in consequence of the bombing by the Allies of factories and communication links in Germany and occupied Europe, and acts of sabotage and general harassment by the French Resistance.

For five months, Rommel devoted all his energy and imagination to strengthening and

closing the gaps in these defences. He flooded some of the low-lying territory (particularly to the west of Carentan) and erected vertical spikes known as "asparagus" in fields where parachutists were likely to land. Despite all this, in June 1944 the "Wall" was still incomplete: not enough mines, parts were badly constructed, the shelters were not strong enough and were vulnerable to attack, batteries still without guns, such as those at Ranville at the mouth of the Orne.

Three divisions were drawn up to hold these defences from the Orne to Cherbourg: the 716th, 352nd and 709th. Close by towards the west were the 243rd division, and to the south the 91st air division and the very strong 6th parachute regiment. Also available were three armoured divisions, the 21st to the south east of Caen, the 12th S.S. and the Panzer on the boundary of Normandy and the Ile de France. There were, therefore, many troops. But they were not all effective; with the parachutists, armoured divisions and infantry who were well trained and experienced, there were young recruits and old, tired soldiers who had just returned from campaigning in Russia. On top of this, two of the armoured divisions could not be engaged without the order of Hitler himself.

## Where and when to repel the assault of the Allies

Rommel calculated that the landing would have to be repelled in the early hours and

actually on the beaches. With this end in view he asked for reserve armoured divisions

### Utah beach

In the foreground on the right the American landings museum is exactly where the German stronghold W.5. was on June 6, held by Lieutenant Jahnke of the 3rd Company of the 919th R.I. (709th German division). On this beach, in the centre of the photograph, directly in front of the monument built in honour of the American 1st special engineers brigade, General Roosevelt landed. From this point he directed the capture of the German stronghold and the advance towards Ste-Marie-du-Mont (to the left along the road in the photograph) and towards Pouppeville where he joined forces with the parachutists of General Taylor's 101st division.

*(photo French Air Force)*





to take up permanent position near the beaches. But his request was not granted for there was a difference of opinion among the German high command as to which tactics to adopt for repelling the landing: either push the enemy as quickly as possible back into the sea, thereby sacrificing reserves that would not be available in the event of a second landing, or wait and be absolutely sure that the landing was not a fake, then to face it with all available resources and crush definitively the troops that were supposed to liberate Europe.

Rommel, like Hitler, believed that the landing would take place in Normandy in May. In the meantime, the uncertainty with

regard to the exact location was carefully maintained by the Allies: methods of deception involving the feeding of wrong information to German Intelligence and espionage, coupled with equal numbers of air raids over all the occupied territories. That was why Hitler wanted to hold on to his armoured reserves.

Similarly Rommel could not make use of the air force. Their numbers had been severely reduced in France by Allied air attacks, and moreover they were wanted more urgently towards the East. Rommel could not enlist the help of the navy either for that too was controlled by the German high command.

## Allied preparations

There had been no major successful landing in history up to 1944. No doubt Churchill remembered the costly experience in the Dardanelles in 1915 when in 1941 he stipulated that technical surveys should be carried out with a view to a landing. In 1943 precise and detailed plans were drawn up for the manufacture of special equipment in English and American ship yards.

At the technical level research was done into fighting and transport equipment. Procedures for support operations between navy, air and army were drawn up, and various types of armoured vehicle were designed for beach fighting; flail tanks to neutralise mines and crush obstacles, bangalore torpedoes to blow up other obstacles such as wire, concrete blocks etc. Specialist units were created. With regard to transport, British

and American industry designed and built different types of flat-bottomed boats to take infantry, tanks, sappers, vehicles and guns as close as possible to the beaches. Amphibious lorries and tanks were built. Finally, in order to supply the battle front and to assist with the advance, the transportable sections of an artificial port were designed and built, to be positioned as quickly as possible right in the middle of the landing zone at Arromanches.

In the second half of 1943, and more particularly after January 1944 when General Eisenhower received the supreme command in Europe, more and more detailed plans were drawn up and the forces brought together in England. These plans relied heavily on information concerning the organisation

### "Chaos" battery

On the cliff north of Longues-sur-Mer, the Germans had installed a marine artillery battery (with 152's), able to fire over Seine Bay. Having been partially destroyed by air-raids, it was nevertheless able to open fire on Allied ships before dawn on June 6. The **Ajax** and the **Georges Leygues** returned fire. One casemate out of four survived. On the 7th in the morning, the battery was occupied by the British.

The remains which can still be seen give some idea of how strong the German fortifications were.







#### Bayeux - June 14

On June 14 General de Gaulle first came ashore in France at Courseulles and was welcomed at Bayeux, the first French town to be liberated (*photo Army Archives*).

of the Germans and the positioning of their troops obtained from a large number of different sources: the experience of previous

landings at Bruneval, Dieppe and Bayonne; air and sea reconnaissance; the French Resistance network.

## The plan for the landing

This plan was completed and presented by Field Marshal Montgomery the chief of land forces of "Overlord", on May 15, 1944. The landing, at dawn and at low tide (Rommel and the German high command thought it would only be possible at high tide and had built their accessory defences according to this assumption) was to take place at the end of a long phase of air attacks which, by concentrating on the northern half of France, Belgium and Holland, would result among

other things in cutting off lower Normandy. It would be immediately preceded by an intense air and sea bombardment of the beaches and of the German defences, and assisted by French Resistance attempts to delay the arrival of reinforcements coming from the centre, south and west of France. It was to entail the landing of six divisions (three American, two British and one Canadian) on five beaches each between 1 and 4 kilometres long, in between the mouth of





### The landing of vehicles and tanks on the beaches

As soon as the assault units (special engineers and infantry) took over the beaches and cleared some routes of mines, the "landing ship tanks" (L.S.T.) beached and allowed tanks, vehicles and infantry to land (*photo Army Archives*).

the Orne to the east, and Saint-Martin-de-Vareville (15 kilometres north of the Vire estuary) to the west, that is a coastal strip 80 kilometres long. It was to be supported by three parachute divisions that would jump the previous night: two American (the 101st and 82nd) in the south eastern corner of the region, round about Sainte-Mère-Église (15 kilometres to the north of Carentan) and one British (the 6th) along the Orne from Caen to the sea.

"This operation should establish a firm foothold to assist with future operations, and to aim as soon as possible at controlling on the one hand the airstrips towards the south of the network of roads around Caen, and on the other the port of Cherbourg."

The five landing beaches chosen were as follows, from east to west: .

**SWORD:** from the Orne to Lion-sur-Mer, 3rd British Div.

**JUNO:** from Saint-Aubin to Courseulles, 3rd Canadian Div.

**GOLD:** La Rivière-Asnelles, 50th British Div. (Northumberland).

**OMAHA:** Sainte-Honorine-Vierville, 29th U.S. Div; 1st U.S. Div.

**UTAH:** La Madeleine, Saint-Germain-de-Vareville, 4th U.S. Div.

On each beach, separate from the main division, engineers and accompanying amphibious armoured vehicles were to land. Successive waves were planned from 6:30 am on the American beaches and from 7:30 am



on the British beaches. The air operations (involving parachute jumps and glider landings) were to take place from 0:30 am, and they too were to be in successive waves, spread out according to a detailed plan. They were to be preceded by the arrival on the scene of specialised commandos by parachute or glider.

Finally there was a special operation of American "Rangers" whose objective was to capture the Pointe de Hoc, a steep cape looking out over Omaha beach towards the

west, and fortified by a German battery in range of the beaches and the maritime approaches to them.

On the evening of "D" day the following should have landed on Normandy soil: 100 000 troops, supported by 1 500 tanks, 5 000 combat vehicles; 3 000 cannon and 10 000 different vehicles ranging from jeeps to bulldozers. The way would then be open to the main invasion force constituting more than three and a half million men and women under arms, gathered together in England.

## The preliminaries to the invasion of « D » day

The preparations for the fighting were numerous and varied. The French had obtained precise information on the German installations and forces. Sometimes they did not think twice about mounting operations in force to obtain documents and to reply to Allied questionnaires. At night, American and British navy launches brought commandos who swam in to find out about the German defences and even about their guns, to deduce which explosives to use to destroy them, and to examine also the quality of the sand on the beaches and how well caterpillar tracks would perform on it. This is what was done on the Normandy beaches, at Omaha and at Luc-sur-Mer, but it was also done along the whole of the French, Belgian

and Dutch coasts. Patrols were discovered, some were captured. In this way, the German command continued to be uncertain about the exact location of the invasion.

Railway and road networks were bombed. This systematic campaign began with the attack of Trappes marshalling yard, near Versailles, at the beginning of March, when 22 000 aeroplanes began to drop 80 000 metric tons of bombs over northern France and Belgium over a space of three months. Radar stations, coastal batteries, airfields and radio and shipping stations were similarly accounted for.

### **Utah Beach - Saint-Martin-de-Vareville**

The monument commemorating the French 2nd armoured division under General Leclerc.

*(photo French Air Force).*

**(Photograph over the page)**

### **Creullet Château and park near Creully**

General Montgomery established his command post here very quickly after the landing. It was at Creully that he explained the course of events to Winston Churchill on June 12.







## June 5. The postponement of the date

"D" day, as originally envisaged, was June 5. At the beginning of June there were storms over the Channel. The forecast for the morning of June 6 was for slightly calmer weather, essential for night parachuting, disembarking on the beaches at dawn and successful support bombardments. Consequently, on June 4 at 9:45, Eisenhower took the difficult decision to postpone "D" day until Tuesday June 6. At the same time, Rommel, reassured by the forecasts of bad weather for the next few days, had just left his command post on the banks of the Seine and was travelling towards Germany in order to spend some days with his family, but also to meet Hitler and try to secure from him the command of the armoured reserves.

On June 5 almost 20 000 ships of all sorts (support, escort, transport), left the English ports. They carried 280 000 troops and a mass of equipment and vehicles. The sea was rough, the sky dull and overcast. The men on board were numb with cold and the majority were violently sea-sick. On the Normandy coast, the German troops at their look-out posts were sheltering from the storm and undergoing routine operations. The staff-officers were preparing for a meeting that was to take place on the 6th at Rennes to study once more how to repel an Allied invasion. In front of the beaches both the sky and the sea had merged together in the dark mist, and there was no air or sea surveillance.

## The night of June 5 – 6. « Go ! »

On the 5th, as from 2200 hours, thousands of aeroplanes took off from England on missions to the Continent: bombardments to complete the isolation of Normandy by paralysing transport and the escort and support of the three air divisions; the destruction of defences on the beaches and the neutralization of the troops manning them.

The German command noticed this abnormally high air activity, but the decoy missions achieved their objective and von Runstedt put the Pas-de-Calais army on the alert. The

Normandy army, the VIIth, was not unduly concerned.

At midnight, zero hours on June 6, the fighting began at each end of the battle field: to the east, on the right bank of the Orne, between Caen and the sea, the first British parachutists and gliders landed, carried off course by the wind and very far from the planned landing areas. Nevertheless, most of the important targets were seized in time thanks to the initiative and good fortune of the men concerned: Bénouville bridge ("Pegasus Bridge") at 0020; Merville battery, at around 0430. On account

### The artificial port at Arromanches

At the foot of Manvieux cliffs to the west of Arromanches blocks of concrete known as "Phoenix" which made up the artificial port of Arromanches can still be seen. These floating blocks were towed from English ports, filled with water, and then sunk. Each one was 70 metres long, 20 metres high, 15 metres wide and weighed 7 000 metric tons. The first arrived at Arromanches on June 9 at dawn. On June 18 115 of them were in position forming a curved artificial break-water that was 8 kilometres long.



of the high winds, British parachutists could only land over a wide area between Troarn and the river Orne. This confused the officers of the 716th German Division who realised only at 0130 hours that British parachutists were landing in strength.

On the other flank, parachutists were landing all around Ste-Mère-Église where a fire was raging. The American 82nd and 101st divisions to the north west and south east of the village were also widely dispersed by the bad weather. Some parachutists of the 101st division landed in the planned D.Z.'s (Dropping Zones), but many went far off course, the units broke up and a lot of them were drowned in the fields that Rommel had ordered to be artificially flooded. Ste-Mère-Église was taken at 0030 hours; in the surrounding countryside the men that had been separated from their units grouped together again and made surprise attacks on German patrols. The troops found it difficult to find their bearings in this wooded region that was cut off by the surrounding floods. These landing difficulties and errors of judgement contributed towards losses

among the Allied troops but they did have the effect of considerably widening the area where fighting was taking place and forced the Germans to spread out towards the west and also to the north where the German general Falley, commander of the 91st air division that was being held in reserve in the Cotentin region, was killed before daybreak near his command post at Pont-L'Abbé, a few kilometres from the spot where general Gavin of the 82nd U.S. division first landed. In the direction of the coast some detachments of general Taylor's 101st division joined together near Ste-Marie-du-Mont and pushed forward towards the sea arriving at Pouppeville before 8 o'clock. Here they were only a few kilometres from Utah beach where the landings had started at 0630 hours.

At 0145 hours von Runstedt was informed by the 15th army at Le Mans of the arrival of parachutists near the mouth of the Orne and north of Carentan. He put all the coastal units on the alert including the 21st armoured division stationed north of Falaise.

## NEPTUNE.

### 5 000 ships facing 100 km of coastline

It was almost dawn on "D" Day. On both flanks of what was to be the landing zone, 18 000 American, Canadian and British troops had been fighting since 0015 hours against German soldiers taken by surprise and trying to find their enemies in the darkness.

5 000 ships were sailing towards the five beaches. At 0200 hours they stopped; the troops got into the flat-bottomed landing craft; the special boats and the amphibious vehicles drew closer; the first wave of Americans was to land on Utah and Omaha beaches at 6:30; the first British soldiers, because of the presence of reefs, were to reach their three beaches at 7:30.

Meanwhile, the alerted German soldiers occupied their fighting positions facing the

sea. At 4 o'clock Allied bombers attacked them in successive waves burying them in the sand, cutting them off in their shelters or striking them down on the paths leading from their rest quarters to their fighting positions. When the dust from the explosions had settled, the German officers in their concrete shelters which had stood up to the bombardment, looked out of the gun slits in blank amazement at hundreds of ships, small, big and medium-sized, standing out so clearly that they had no need of binoculars. They all got into their firing positions, machine guns trained on the defences, the concrete stakes, mines and wire entanglements which the low tide had left uncovered. All over the five beaches everything was in position for the great battle to commence.

## June 6 - Daytime

The first fighting broke out at Utah and Omaha.

### UTAH, or general Roosevelt's decision making

The first wave of men reached Utah beach at 0630 hours exactly, not opposite St-Martin-de-Vareville as planned but 2 kilometres further south in front of a breach held by blockhaus W.5 (exactly where Utah museum is today).

Resistance was not strong over the rest of the beach. Amphibious tanks swept over it cleaning it up with the help of infantry. The units landing by mistake too far towards the south found themselves consequently out of range of the German batteries situated at the north end of the beach.

General Roosevelt, who came ashore with the first wave of troops, decided to continue with the landing where it had begun. Soon an exit from the beach was opened, thanks to the engineer corps, followed by a second one. The 4th division swarmed through the breach. They met up with the 101st parachute division at Ste-Marie-du-Mont, at Pouppeville, near St-Martin-de-Vareville, and at Audouville-la-Hubert in the early hours of the morning. For the rest of the day disjointed fighting took place over a vast area between American parachutists trying to join up again with 4th division infantry who had already landed, and German grenadiers of the 91st division. In the south, the courageous German 6th parachute regiment commanded by Lt. Colonel von der Heydte blocked the route through to Carentan and counter-attacked. One of his battalions managed to reach the middle of the zone occupied by the American parachutists at Turqueville, very close to Ste-Mère-Église that had been taken by the U.S. 82nd division a little after midnight.

### OMAHA, the beach of blood

At Omaha, which comprised Vierville and St-Laurent beaches, the fighting was immediately very hard and difficult for the U.S. 1st and 29th divisions. The rafts that were covered with soldiers coming in to land at once came under fire from the automatic arms and guns of the German 716th and 352nd divisions, the latter division having been posted there at the end of May without the knowledge of the Allies. The engineers performed extraordinary feats to destroy the obstacles, position bangalore torpedoes and to cut down the wire entanglements which had fortunately been made visible by the low tide. The tide was coming in, leaving the American infantry a space that was becoming narrower and narrower, and that was under heavy German fire. The Americans suffered heavy losses for they were stuck between the water and the concrete wall, and the naval artillery cover they received was ineffective against the low-lying German defences. The situation remained critical until mid-day. Out at sea, General Bradley felt the time was coming when he would have to give the order to re-embark. In the German blockhouses the soldiers, who were young 17 year olds and veterans from Russia, aimed and fired calmly, but their ammunition began to run out and the superior Allied air attack ensured that no new supplies would be forthcoming. At around 1230 hours, at the instigation of some American officers, particularly General Cotta and Colonel Canham, some courageous engineers made an all-out attempt to neutralise some obstacles and mines, and they were followed by combat troops who were able to open breaches in the "Wall", break through the sand dunes and pierce the German defences. Vierville was taken, then in the evening access roads were opened to Colleville and St-Laurent. Decimated, exhausted, short of ammunition, the German soldiers left their blockhouses at nightfall and fell back behind the dunes. They hoped to find there tanks of the Panzer division





which, after the courageous defence of the beaches during the course of the day, would have been able to push the enemy back into the sea the following morning. They hoped in vain.

### **HOC POINT : the Rangers'ladders and grappling-irons**

Half-way between Omaha and Utah stood Hoc Point dominating the sea with its vertical cliffs. It was crowned by a battery in a concrete shelter. This had to be taken in order to free the beaches of the menace which it threatened them with. This mission was entrusted to a special American unit, the 2nd Rangers battalion. Hoc Point in the previous few days had been the object of massive raids and its guns had been withdrawn and trained towards the west. The battery's position at the top of the cliff, however, was still dangerous and difficult to destroy. The Rangers approached it with fire ladders installed on rafts. They shot grappling-irons and ropes into the cliff face under close naval artillery cover. The Ranger managed to scale the summit, and for the rest of that day, and the day after, they had to withstand German counter-attacks. For two days a combat of Homeric proportions was enacted on this outcrop of rock.

### **The British and Canadian beaches: the success of specially trained armoured divisions**

On the British and Canadian beaches the landing started only at 0730. On Sword beach, between Hermanville and Ouistreham,

the British 3rd division advanced methodically, preceded by flail tanks. In spite of naval and air artillery, the German infantry and anti-tank units suffered no losses, and the fighting began. The British armoured divisions opened up breaches and at about 0930 hours the troops started to move forward. They reached Hermanville. The British armoured divisions pushed on towards Périers hill, an essential position to hold in order to open the road to Caen and to meet up with the 6th parachute division at Bénouville. At the beginning of the afternoon Périers hill was taken. Next was Biéville, about 6 kilometres from Caen which was burning after a very heavy air-raid. At 1600 hours the road to Caen seemed to be open. It was then that a decisive engagement was fought with the tanks of the 21st Panzer division.

The 21st Panzer division, alerted at 2 o'clock in its bases that were spread out between Caen and Falaise, had been sent east of the Orne in the early morning. It was just there that the German 716th division had been harassed by various encounters during the night with the 6000 British parachutists that had landed in the region between the rivers Orne and Dive to the north of the Caen-Troarn road. The 21st Panzer division between 9 and 11 o'clock manoeuvred towards the east of Caen, taking great precautions and staying well under cover in order to avoid air attacks from the Allies who controlled the skies. At the end of the morning the Panzers abandoned the pursuit of parachutists and turned to the British infantry and armoured divisions that were beginning to establish a firm foothold on Normandy soil. Crossing Caen with some difficulty for it was in flames, the German tanks reached the north west of Caen at the beginning of the afternoon with orders to recapture Périers hill and then to push on to the sea, to Luc-sur-Mer, leaving the British and Canadians on either side.

### **The German observatory at " Chaos "**

A two-storey observation post situated on the edge of the cliff at Longues-sur-Mer between Arromanches and Port-en-Bassin. It had to direct the operations of a marine artillery battery that had four 152 guns able to cover Seine Bay between Le Havre and Cherbourg. This post and the four casemates were frequently bombed by the Allies before " D " day.





At Courseulles, on "Juno" beach, the Canadian 3rd division landed, a short while after the British who were able to give them their support. The flail tanks were also used here before the infantry advanced. Heavy fighting between Courseulles and Bernières resulted in breaches being opened up through which tanks were able to pass. They were then able to give accurate cover to the infantry that had opened the way for them. Armoured divisions began to make their way towards Bretteville on the Caen-Bayeux road, and towards Anisy on the Courseulles-Caen road.

## PERIERS.

The strength  
of the armoured divisions :  
the decision of the day

It was now that the tanks of the 21st Panzer division emerged from the outskirts of Caen. It would have been very serious indeed if they had been able to forge on towards the sea in between the British and Canadians. But it was already very late. The British Commandos, and also the French Commando Kieffer, who had landed at Ouistreham, had been linked up with the 6th parachute division at Bénouville since 1330 hours. The 3rd division had established anti-tank guns at Périers, Biéville and Colleville. The road to Caen seemed to be

open and the British and Canadians were very soon to meet between Biéville and Anisy. The German tanks quickly had to start defending themselves to the best of their ability. They didn't reach Périers hill, nor were they able to follow and join up with the Grenadier Panzers who had managed to slip through to the coast between Luc and Lion-sur-Mer.

In the middle of the landing zone around Asnelles, "Gold" beach was flanked by steep cliffs. The English "Northumberland" 50th division therefore had a delicate task. Accompanied and supported by flail tanks the British brigades landed at La Rivière and at Hamel at 0730 hours. They proceeded to destroy progressively the German block-houses and other obstacles, and before 11 o'clock had managed to open up seven exits from the beach. The armoured divisions quickly passed through them and took Creully. The armoured patrols came under heavy fire behind the German defences at Hamel which were still resisting, but they pushed on towards Bernières to join up with the Canadians. On the west side they cut off the road from Bayeux to the small town of Arromanches which was soon to be occupied and which was where the Mulberry artificial port was going to be made with the utmost speed. In the evening of June 6 a marine commando even managed to climb the hills to the south of Port-en-Bessin, about 20 kilometres west of his landing point and only a few kilometres from the Americans at Omaha.

« The long sobs of the violins  
of Autumn wound my heart  
with languid monotony ». VERLAINE

The broadcast by the BBC of this strophe of Verlaine's, the first part during the night

of June 1-2, and the second part on June 5 at 2015 hours, was the signal to the French

### "Gold" beach

East of Arromanches is the long beach of Asnelles at Ver-sur-Mer where the 50th British division "Northumberland" landed on June 6 at 7:30 am. A German blockhaus was on the cliff in the place occupied nowadays by a look-out post (from where the photograph is taken). It looked straight out over the beach which was fully within range of its guns.





Resistance that in the coming 48 hours the landings were going to take place. It also gave them the go-ahead to put their plans into action. From dawn on June 6 the F.F.I. (French Forces of the Interior) began planned

assaults against the German forces, particularly against communication links. The progress of reserves from the centre, west and south west of France towards Normandy was severely hindered and delayed.

The situation on the evening of June 6 : a delicate , narrow bridge-head is established ; its widening will be long, hard, costly

The bloody battle raged all day in different parts of the landing zone. The German forces stationed on the beaches and near the coasts had been fighting Allied air units and those forces that had landed by sea since midnight and 6:30 am respectively. Only one important German unit, the 21st Panzer division, held in reserve had been engaged, late in the day, north of Caen. In the evening nearly 100 000 Allied had landed. Before daybreak von Runstedt had alerted the two armoured divisions stationed near Paris. But Hitler, who had been told about the landings when he woke up at around 10 o'clock only allowed these divisions to take part in the fighting at 4 pm for, as far as Hitler was concerned, things were still uncertain and would remain so for many days yet. "Is it a decoy attack, or a real offensive? Is it the invasion or isn't it?"

In fact, the situation which pertained on the evening of the 6th established the form of battle which was to follow. To the west, at the southern limits of the Cotentin region, a wide zone not yet well-defined had fallen into American hands. Different German units had put up resistance but the Cotentin region was about to be cut off. To the east the Allies were 6 kilometres from Caen. The attack of the 21st Panzer division at the end of the afternoon had failed in its bid to thrust the British and the Canadians back into the sea. But it did succeed in blocking the road through to Caen. That city, although very close at hand, had been crippled by air-raids but it was only going to be taken after long and costly fighting. In the middle of the landing zone, the German 716th division stood up to the attack by fighting ferociously and made the landing on Omaha

#### **The Canadian cemetery at Reviere**

Beyond the trees forming the northern boundary of the cemetery can be seen Bernières beach ("Juno") where the Canadian 3rd division and 2nd armoured brigade landed. From this hill, that was taken in the morning of June 6, armoured reconnaissance patrols in the afternoon began to push in the direction of Bretteville to cut off the Bayeux-Caen road.

beach very difficult and extremely costly. However, thanks to the courage of the two American divisions involved, (the First with first-hand fighting experience acquired in the Mediterranean, and the 29th fighting for the first time with a degree of vigour and guts such as had never been seen before in history), a bridge-head had been established. But it was a fragile one, and in order to extend it the Americans had to push forward into the woodland that stretches from Caen to St-Lô and Coutances, a terrain that was relatively easy to defend. The hardened German troops were in a position to use all their resources to the full to hold back the Allied infantry and armoured divisions for many of whom this was to be the first taste of battle. It was only at the expense of a

long battle for the bridge-head that a breakthrough was finally made.

The following day, the 7th, Bayeux was taken and it became the first French town to be liberated. Directly after this the long battle for Caen began and it was to last for two months. The German forces, whose reinforcements were only able to trickle through on account of air-raids and French Resistance acts of sabotage, fought for every inch of the ground. When Churchill on June 12 and de Gaulle on the 14th visited the front, the whole of Normandy was a battlefield. Towns and villages were destroyed, and men lay dead in their thousands on all sides: Allied and German soldiers, and also French Resistance fighters.

## Today the remembrance : the cemeteries

This hard battle of the beaches is commemorated today by reconstructed towns along the coast, or in the forest, but also by cemeteries that are carefully tended and faithfully adorned with flowers by families that come and visit throughout the year from all countries. These cemeteries are at the spots where different countries fought for their cause. The 9000 American dead are on the hill which overlooks Omaha, the beach of blood. The Germans are in two cemeteries, La Cambre and Orglandes, in the middle of the forest where they defended themselves so bitterly. The Canadians are at Revers, near the breach that was made on the morning of the 6th, and from which their armour-

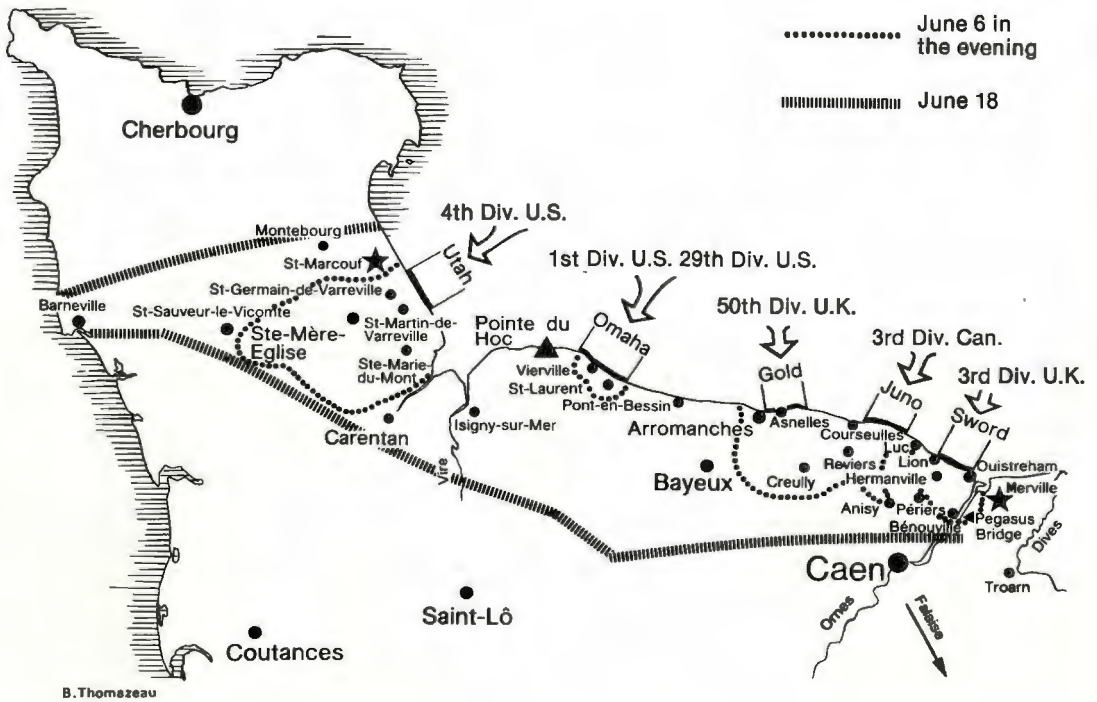
ed patrols left in order to cut off the Bayeux-Caen road. The British are in various cemeteries all around Caen which they were in sight of on the evening of the 6th and which they had to surround for so long before taking. If there are no French military cemeteries, this does not mean to say that the French did not contribute to the fighting of June 6. Through providing information they had contributed to the successful completion of the plan of action. They also contributed by destroying the German communications. Finally, as soon as Caen was threatened after "Overlord" began, the French Resistance fighters held in Caen prison were shot or deported.

### **Creully Château (town hall)**

The pretty village of Creully 10 kilometres south of the beach at Asnelles-Ver-sur-Mer ("Gold") was taken in the afternoon of June 6 by the 69th brigade of the 50th Northumberland division. It was halfway between the coast and the Caen-Bayeux road which was almost reached by the evening. The Château is in a beautiful spot overlooking the valley of the Seuelles which flows into the Channel at Courseulles.







**The American cemetery at Saint-Laurent - Omaha beach**

Vierville is on the road which runs along Omaha beach.

In the foreground, the cemetery (containing almost 10,000 graves) and the memorial on the walls of which are drawn very clearly the different stages of the landing and the advance across Europe which followed it.

On the right is Omaha beach that the 1st and 29th infantry divisions took on June 6. Until midday the Germans were able to contain the invaders on the beach, but by the evening American infantry had occupied the hill which is now the site of the cemetery (*photo French Air Force*).





**(Front cover)**

**Utah Beach**

The monument to the American 1<sup>st</sup> brigade of special beach engineers faces the sea where the first landings took place on June 6 at 6:30 am.

The 1<sup>st</sup> brigade under Lieutenant-Colonel Caffey played a decisive role in clearing away obstacles and allowing the 4<sup>th</sup> division infantry under General Barton to scale the dunes and push on towards Sainte-Marie-du-Mont (*photo French Air Force*).

**(Back cover)**

**The German cemetery at La Cambe**

One of the three large German cemeteries in Normandy: Huisnes near Pontorson ; Orglandes near Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte in Cotentin, not far from Picauville where General Falley, commander of the 91<sup>st</sup> Luftlande Division was killed at dawn on June 6 by parachutists of the American 82<sup>nd</sup> parachute division under General Ridgway ; and La Cambe, near Isigny, where lie 20 000 German soldiers killed heroically in the landing zone.



