

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library  
Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Speechwriting, Office of: Research Office:  
Records, 1981-1989

**SERIES:** I: SPEECHES, 1981-1989

**Folder Title:** The President's Trip to Normandy  
(3 of 11)

**Box:** 161

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: [reagan.library@nara.gov](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

*Last Updated: 02/12/2024*

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: WH Speechwriting: Research Office Records

Archivist: jas

File Folder: President's Trip to Normandy (3)

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><br><i>R 1/7/00 NLSF96-016 #2</i> | <del>4/6/84</del> | <del>P1</del> |

**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].

KW  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 22, 1984

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

May 22, 1984

3:35 P.M. EDT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COLONEL SKATES: Sir?

Q Is that ceremony at the bottom?

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

Q Can I ask you --

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

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

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

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

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

MORE

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

SECRETARY MARSH: Virginia regiment.

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

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

Q Those cuts are breaks in the bluffs?

COLONEL SKATES: Ma'am?

Q Those cuts are breaks in the bluffs?

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

SECRETARY MARSH: Could you move over to Utah now.

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

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

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

MORE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORE

Q Yes.

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

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

Q Are we going to get --

GENERAL GRANGE: When you look at that --

Q -- shot at? (Laughter.)

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

Q How high --

GENERAL GRANGE: -- brave men there that day.

Q How are the graves marked?

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

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

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

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

Q Little flags?

Q Those too.

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

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

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

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

Q Is this where the Roosevelt brothers --

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

Q Where are the Roosevelt graves?

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

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



The President stays here for 50 minutes.

Q 50? 5,0?

GENERAL GRANGE: 5,0.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q What are the countries? Can you list them?

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

Q What about the Poles?

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

Q What does that mean?

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

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

GENERAL GRANGE: No.

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

SECRETARY MARSH: They were part of the invasion --

GENERAL GRANGE: They were part of the invasion force.

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

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

Q What is the exact title of this committee?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q And the President will do what at Utah?

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

Q There was no trouble organizing a ceremony involving --

GENERAL GRANGE: That's right.

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

GENERAL GRANGE: He will be one of them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Yes.

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

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

Q -- about an hour --

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

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

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

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

Q How many troops participated altogether in the invasion?

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

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

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

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

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

COLONEL SKATES: Right, yes. Yes.

Q And what were the casualties figures of those --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yes?

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

GENERAL BARKER: I really don't know.

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

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

Q No, I mean the Utah Beach --

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

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

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

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

# I Climbed the Cliffs With the Rangers

By LT. G. K. HODENFIELD

An eyewitness account of the toughest action fought by American troops on the Normandy beachhead.

SOMEWHERE IN NORMANDY.

"RANGERS! Man your craft!" It was five minutes after four on the morning of June sixth when that command came over the public-address system of a British transport lying off the coast of France. Loud-speakers gave the voice a metallic tone which seemed a little harsh for the occasion, but it didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the 230 Rangers who were about to embark for assault on Target No. 1—six 155-mm. guns located on Pointe du Hoc, Normandy.

"All aboard for Hoboken ferry! Leaving in five minutes!" one Ranger called into the darkness, and there was nothing forced about the laughter that followed. Two hours earlier, these men had been routed out of bed, and as they ate flapjacks there was the expected number of cracks about "the condemned ate a hearty breakfast."

I had joined the Rangers only three days earlier, as correspondent for Stars and Stripes, and I was not looking forward to the next few hours with such anticipation as these men. Ahead of us was a two-hour trip in an assault landing craft, and then the assault on Hitler's western wall. Our destination was a tiny bit of land jutting into the English Channel just east of Grandcamp-les-Bains, where the Germans had placed guns which dominated the entire American landing area.

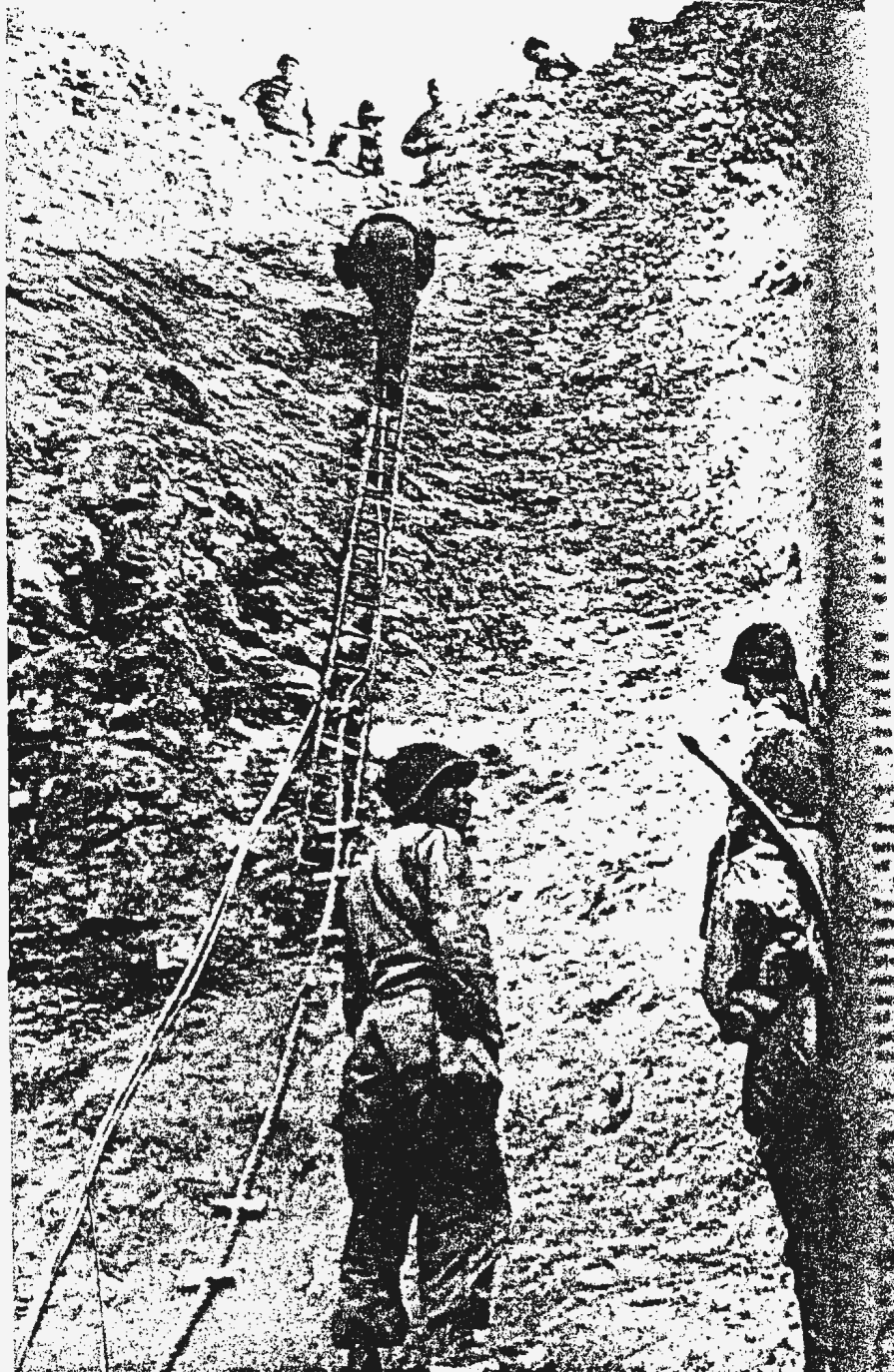
It was a matter of but a few minutes before our craft was lowered into the inky-black English Channel, rightly dubbed by Allied airmen "the longest body of water in the world." Our flotilla seemed to move aimlessly about, and then suddenly it took definite shape and began the bobbing and tossing trip to France.

"We're off, boys," cried the sergeant in front of my craft, "and this time it's really the forty-nine-cent tour!"

By the time we found fairly comfortable positions in the heavily loaded boats, the first glow of dawn began showing in the east. The laughing and joking was still going on, but it stopped abruptly when we saw another craft overturn in the heavy waves just behind us. There was nothing we could do to help those poor guys; just say a little prayer that they would be picked up before they froze to death. We all wanted to help, but the success of our mission was too vital, and the Rangers knew they were expendable.

As the morning light grew brighter, we could see hundreds of other boats all making for the shores of Normandy. But those boats were landing on beaches, while ahead of us were sheer cliffs that had to be scaled. Personally, I was less scared of the Germans than of those cliffs; I had been shot at before, but I had never had to climb a rope ladder first.

Those rope ladders were the secret weapon of this expedition. Lt. Col. James Rudder, former Texas football coach, and Capt. Harold Slater had worked out a system by which grapple hooks were shot over the cliffs by rockets, trailing ladders and other lines.



One of the Allies' secret weapons: grapple hooks trailing rope ladders, shot by rockets over the high cliffs at Pointe du Hoc, France. Up these the Rangers swarmed to surprise the Germans.

The grapples were to bite into the bomb-blasted earth on Pointe du Hoc, and when the slack was taken up, the ladders would be ready to climb.

The entire success of this operation depended on those ladders. Pointe du Hoc is accessible from the sea only by scaling the cliffs, and the Germans, believing that not even "military idiots" would dare to come from that direction, had placed all their defenses facing inland. They knew that Pointe du Hoc was an extremely important target, but they thought our attack would be made from the flank, so they had placed a ring of defenses around the inner arc of the point.

Soon we were able to see on the horizon the dim outlines of the coast of France, and about that time a terrific naval barrage started. The naval barrage was not primarily intended to destroy the German guns—they were too well casemated for that—but the barrage would drive the Germans into their deep tunnels.

The plan was that the Rangers were to land at exactly six-thirty in the morning, just five minutes after the lifting of the barrage. By the time the Ger-

mans would dare to come out of their holes, the Rangers would be over the top of the cliffs, spiking the guns. And then, after the guns had been spiked, the Rangers would be able to devote their full strength to killing Germans.

Gradually we drew nearer, and some of us took ourselves partially out of the boat to take our first look at Normandy. It looked very much like England, which we had just left the night before, and for no reason we felt disappointed.

But we weren't disappointed in our Navy. The Texas, bulking heavily against the horizon in the night of early morning, was sending about her own message into Pointe du Hoc, the silence of the sea reaching us long after we could see the blast of fire from the gun muzzles.

As we watched the coast of France draw nearer, it didn't seem possible that this was really the invasion, the second front for which so many had been trained for so long. It looked too peaceful, too quiet. But suddenly we heard a sharp rat-ta-lat, and machine-gun bullets fell into the water ahead of us.

"Yes, boss!" yelled one man. "Those jerks are trying to hit us!"

They were, too.

The wind was blowing at least fifteen knots, and the waves, with waves reaching four feet, had pushed us off our course. A check with charts and watches showed we were well behind our carefully planned route. The naval barrage stopped, as scheduled, minutes before we were to make our touchdown, and we were far off the course and we had to give up the idea of surprising the Germans. So we kept bobbing about, getting closer and closer to Pointe du Hoc, but likewise getting closer to the Germans, who had taken positions along the top.

We kept our heads ducked low below the gunwales of the LCA, and we jumped each time a burst of machine-gun fire rattled against our sides. When we did look up, we could see men floating around in the water after their boats had been overturned. One gave us a cheery wave of his hand. It was Captain Massney, who had helped devise the rope-ladder landing idea. After two hours in the water, he was picked up by the Navy in a fit of high temper at the thought that he had robbed him of his chance to see his own men in action. He didn't reach France until a week later.

I suppose that we all should have been scared when the LCA nosed up to the narrow beach to make our landing, but we all were too excited. I was sitting next to Capt. Otto ("Big Stoop") Massney, a commandeer. Together, we watched rockets being fired from other craft on our right, and he cursed when he saw that some had been fired too far and had fallen far short of the cliff top.

"Don't fire those things until I give the word!" he yelled. "We've got plenty of time!"

The nose of our LCA ground against the sand, and he gave the word, and, with a loud roaring sound, our rockets sailed over the top of the cliffs.

I ducked my head when the first series of rockets exploded, heeding Massney's warning that we would be blinded if we didn't, but then I looked up to see what had happened. I was lost in admiration of every picture the rockets were making, when the second and third series went off. The explosions were so close that I fell over backward into the bottom of the boat, but as I rose shamefacedly, Massney said to me on the back and said, "If that scared you, you think it did to the Germans?"

There was no time for further conversation, for the rope had been lowered and our men were scrambling



The author, Stars and Stripes writer, gives a worm's-eye view of his first day in France.

blinking ashore with their weapons ranging from pistols and knives in small tin cases to machine guns and trench mortars.

Snipers and machine-guns were on the cliffs all around us as we scrambled to the base of the cliff for safety. Sgt. Bob Youso and Pvt. Alvin White had already started up the ladders which were hugging the face of the cliff, and others were lined up, waiting their turn, while Massney stood at the bottom, yelling advice and encouragement.

Those of us not so useful had to wait nearly an hour for our turn to start climbing, so, for lack of anything better to do, I lit a cigarette. Then the thought struck me, *This is a helluva way to invade France, sitting down in the shade with a cigarette.*

I saw Lt. Amos Potts, Army photographer, who was fuming mad because here he was, in the middle of the greatest picture story of his life, and all his equipment had been water-soaked in the landing. He and I were too nervous to sit still, so we started digging some ammunition out of the sand, where it already was being partially buried by the incoming tide. Later, we had reason to be very thankful that we had salvaged that ammunition.

Over on our right, Capt. Walter ("Doc") Block, of Chicago, the medical officer of our battalion, had set up a first-aid post for the wounded, surrounded by snipers on the cliffs. ~~There were a number of patients in the post.~~

My trip up the ladder was interrupted only by numerous stops to catch my breath. We were able to hear the firing of small arms and occasional loud roars from the top of the cliff, but we had no way of telling what was going on, because Massney had become impatient and had gone up earlier than scheduled, taking the field telephone with him.

Finally I tumbled over the top of the cliff into a shell hole left by a previous bombardment from our air force, and I asked some of the men in the shell hole what the score was. But I could learn only that two of the air guns in Target No. 1 had been destroyed by the air force, prior to D Day, and that the remaining four had been removed.

Raising my head carefully over the edge of the shell hole, I got my first real look at Pointe du Hoc. Just picture it as a huge letter V, jutting into the English Channel, with sides formed by cliffs 150 feet high. The Rangers had landed on the left side of the V, with our group at the right.

Straight ahead of me for a mile was nothing but shell holes from the air and naval bombardments. At my left was a series of small fields with hedgerows extending to the cliffs. On the far right was the English Channel on the other side of the V, and along the cliff was a concrete observation post which controlled the fire of all six German guns. I moved over to the left-flank troops and stayed there until late that evening.

Meanwhile, other units which were also assaulting the cliffs had been having various sorts of trouble. The Germans had come to the edge of the cliffs and had rolled hand grenades down the ladders. Later, as a sort of afterthought, they started cutting the ropes, but by this time the Rangers had gone up and over and were pushing the jerries back.

According to the initial plan, Colonel Rudder was to have signaled at 7:15 A.M. to our reinforcements, which were lying offshore. If our situation was well in hand, the reinforcements were to land at the base of the cliffs and follow our assault group. If, however, the plan was not succeeding, the reinforcements were to beach themselves five miles to the east and attack from the flank. The idea was that, at whatever cost in time, men and materials, those guns must be spiked.

But because we had been so late in landing, there had been no chance to signal, and our reinforcements, believing that the group which (Continued on Page 98)

or been over-...  
the Navy...  
a the...  
full...  
If the...  
Navy...  
and we...



Back to the hard-won cliffs of Normandy, wounded G.I. watches reinforcements land.



Their job of securing a foothold in France done, the wounded, already bandaged and tagged, wait in the shelter of the rocks for the ships that are to carry them back to England.

# I CLIMBED THE CLIFFS WITH THE RANGERS

(Continued from Page 19)

had assaulted the cliffs must have been wiped out, were following the second plan. We knew they would be coming up from the flank, but we didn't know how long it would take them to get there.

Our men fanned out to destroy the guns, and then, learning that four of them had been removed, two companies formed a big patrol and set out to find them. While this patrol was out searching for our target, other Rangers were fighting snipers and seeking out German machine-gun nests.

This was a new type of warfare, a crazy kind. The jerries knew every inch of the terrain; they had the place taped right down to the last little shell hole. They had long deep tunnels, through which they would dash, firing first from one spot and then another. At one place, sixteen Rangers had to hide themselves in a ditch covered with brush—and there they stayed for fifty-eight hours, sharing three bars of chocolate, while the Germans could be heard talking as they walked down the hedgerow. Once or twice, the Germans even jumped over the ditch itself.

There was one machine gun far to our left, but not so far that it wasn't costing us a number of casualties. Between our line and that machine gun was a field with ACHTUNG! MINEN! signs hung on a fence around it. We knew that there might be mines there—and again, there might not.

Youso and White, the same two men who had been the first ones up Massey's ropes, decided to get that machine gunner, and get him good. They checked their rifles and then started crawling on their stomachs right over that field. Nary a word was said about mines. That was an "occupational hazard" which these men were ready to risk.

They got the machine gunner and they came back, but both had nasty wounds. Youso through the elbow and White through the knee. But neither would leave the line of defense until we all retired at dusk. They both said they could still see Germans and they could still shoot and, anyway, there might be some fun they didn't want to miss.

## Between Germans and Deep Sea

As darkness closed in on Pointe du Hoe, our line moved back to form a defensive perimeter around the command post. This post was back of the former German air-raid shelter. Before us, we had a sixteen-foot concrete wall. Behind, we had the English Channel.

I had found a subterranean chamber near by with sixteen bunks, and here he established a sort of base hospital, where he worked all night with a flickering candle and sometimes a flashlight. At times there were so many patients that men had to lie in the command post until, maybe, one of the other patients would die or could be patched up well enough to go back out—maybe to fight, maybe to help out around the post.

It wasn't until late that night that one man returned and reported to Lt. Robert Armand, of La Fayette, Indiana, that the four missing guns had been found and destroyed.

At one o'clock on the morning of June seventh the Germans launched their first counterattack. By daylight the seriousness of our situation really loomed big. The first jerry attack had been thrown back, but they had regrouped during the night, and this time they penetrated our lines, cutting off a number of our men. Some of them managed to work their way back to our lines, but we lost one officer killed and nineteen enlisted men missing in action.

It was about the time of that second counterattack that I gave up hope of getting off Pointe du Hoe alive. No reinforcements in sight, plenty of Germans in front of us, nothing behind us but sheer cliffs and lots of Channel. It is hard to realize now just how short we really were of supplies. Most of our men, in order to carry more ammunition, had left their canteens and rations in the supply boat which was to have followed us in, but that supply boat, it turned out, was one of the first boats sunk. Without our supply boat, we were up the creek not only for food and water but also for ammunition.

Our meals generally consisted of D-ration chocolate, biscuits and cold chopped meat. Doc was in charge of the water distribution and he gave each of us two thirds of a canteenful. He didn't say how long it had to last, because that's all there was.

Everyone around the command post not busy otherwise was wiping sand and

constant check on the wounded and on the organization of the defenses.

During the afternoon, Massey reported to Colonel Rudder that he had found a German ammunition dump that would be easy to blow with a four-man patrol and some bangalore torpedoes. While they were discussing this, I mentioned that I would like to see the excitement—meaning I would like a nice, safe vantage point from which to view the spectacle.

First thing I knew, Massey gave me a bangalore and we were off. Massey, who was going to lead the expedition; Lt. Dutch Vosmeer, of Pella, Iowa, demolition officer; Pvt. Frank Anderson, who was going to blow the dump; and I, who went along because I didn't know how to back out.

The ammunition dump was behind the German lines, and getting there was a matter of running from shell hole to shell hole. Our men drove the jerries away, and when we got there, Anderson

story, with a different ending, would be written by a German correspondent.

Only that artillery fire pounded those ships saved our collective nerves. Every time the Germans would pick one spot for attack, Eiker would lead the destroyers and they would blast away with a rain of fire.

The most inspiring sight of that second day came when our Navy jerries out of a house on the cliff which led down to Grandcamp. I had noticed that house, already partially demolished by previous bombardments, when I first clambered over the top of the cliff. Now I was to see it right down to the ground. As they fled out of it, our Rangers picked them off with rifles.

All that second day we waited for the Navy, while bitter fighting went on all over our little area. We had complete control of that area, about 250 yards square, with occasional deepening than that.

Early in the morning the Navy motor whaleboat to evacuate the wounded, and the boat foundered on the narrow beach. Later on, we tried to come in with supplies, but we turned back because of the strong tide.

## The Blue-Plate Special

And then, late in the afternoon, it seemed—two LCVPs made for the beach, with everything we needed including one platoon of Ranger reinforcements.

Doc started making jam sandwiches. Jam sandwiches hereafter will always be sacred with me. They used to be something to eat with a glass of cold milk the afternoon, but that day they were seven-course dinners, complete with finger bowls. And someday I would like to pay personal thanks to Maj. Street, who brought them to us. Maj. Street used to be with the first Rangers but for this operation he was attached to the naval flagship.

There were no more counterattacks that night, just patrol activity on the sides. Off to the left, we could see a rage of flak, as Luftwaffe reconnaissance planes scooted over the main beach, but the planes didn't bother us. It was fairly quiet when I lay down to sleep two in the morning, and it is customary on how tired a person can be that I slept soundly for six hours, with a hunk of rock digging into the corner of my spine.

The next day was an anticlimax. I suppose the end of a battle always is. Our reinforcements arrived from the flank, after a terrific struggle, and they took a powder. By noon we were walking upright. But we moved slowly. Two hundred and thirty of us had been that D Day on Pointe du Hoe. Now there were comparatively few of us able to walk out under our own power. Numbers of our party were listed as missing in action, wounded or killed.

As we walked along, we talked about the two and a half days we had spent at Pointe du Hoe. I was proud of the fact that the guns had been destroyed—~~the only one of the men who weren't with us now, then who were busy.~~

But good soldiers do not think about things like that, and the best are the best soldiers in the world. I took Lt. Dick Wentz, platoon leader from Beatrice, Nebraska, to break a spell of melancholy. On our way out found a former German canteen, stuck to the roof with knives, razor blades and soap. Around outside was a case of German beer bottles—all empty.

"Now I really hate those Germans," he screamed. "Oh, how I hate the guys! They didn't even leave us a drink!"



LITTLE LULU

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

dirt off the rifle shells which Potts and I had dug out from the sand on the beach. Every shell was needed and not one was wasted.

To ease the ammunition shortage, the Rangers were grabbing all the captured and abandoned German weapons they could lay their hands on. Pvt. Lester Zages, of Detroit, came running into the command post during the middle of the second afternoon and shouted, "Dammit! I got eight of 'em already, and with one of their own guns too!"

We even had a German machine gun right in front of the command post. Our mortar fire was particularly effective. One crew came back to the command post, on orders, with all the ammunition they had on hand—two final rounds.

But Colonel Rudder, cool and calm as ever, was still master of the situation—outwardly at least—although he, too, thought we were goners. He maintained contact with patrols through sound-power telephones and he kept

slipped the bangalores inside the doors of a little building, lit the fuse, and we high-tailed it out of there, with me leading. The explosion rained clouds of dirt, rifle shells and hunks of planks around us, but we were too happy to care.

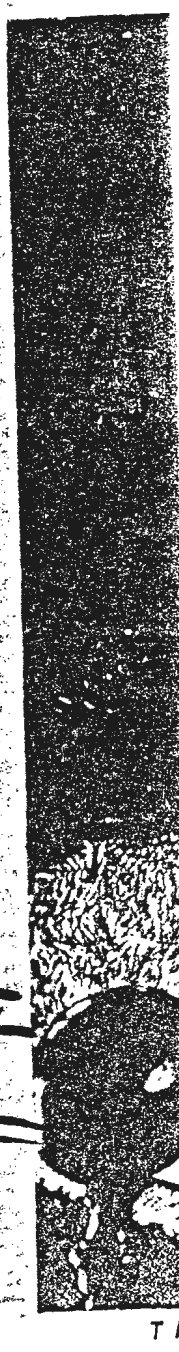
Going back, I used a new system, which I now pass on for whatever it may be worth: Instead of stopping in each shell hole for breath, I ran in one side and out the other—but fast!—figuring that jerry wouldn't expect me so soon. Apparently he didn't. But that system is very hard on the wind.

Thereport: "Ammunition dump blown. Some enemy fire. No casualties."

Back at the command post, I learned that Lt. James Eiker, signal officer, had established contact with the Navy destroyers just offshore and could call for artillery fire on observed enemy concentrations. The contact was with a signal lamp which he had brought along in spite of protests from his section that their boat already was overloaded. Had he not persisted in bringing that lamp, this

# Home

There is no such thing as a free lunch in a child's life. And in wartime we are getting used to us with new feelings. But the provisions of life are a real problem. Every day is a real problem. Both in wartime and in peacetime. So life insurance for your children, is a fun thing to do.



T H

# June 6



**T**he anniversary will be a state occasion. Queen Elizabeth will cross the channel in the Royal Yacht, *Britannia*. Other chiefs of the old Alliance—Reagan and Mitterrand and Trudeau, the Queen of The Netherlands, the King of the Belgians—will assemble for the ceremonies before some of them go on to an economic summit in London. They will fly in helicopters over the famous beaches—Omaha, Utah and the rest. They will inspect the surf through which the invaders struggled 40 years ago, young amphibians buffeted by waves and torn by crossfires. Their landfall, in a chaos of metal and smoke and dead bodies, began the end of the thousand-year Reich.

Ordinary Americans and Englishmen and Canadians and others, now in late middle age, will come as well. They will wander over the pastoral killing ground. They will search in the cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer for the graves of friends they fought beside. They will think of themselves singing as they set off from England. "Glory, glory, what a hell of a way to die . . ." They will remember exactly the spot where they were pinned down by German machine guns, or where a shell blast sent a truck pin-

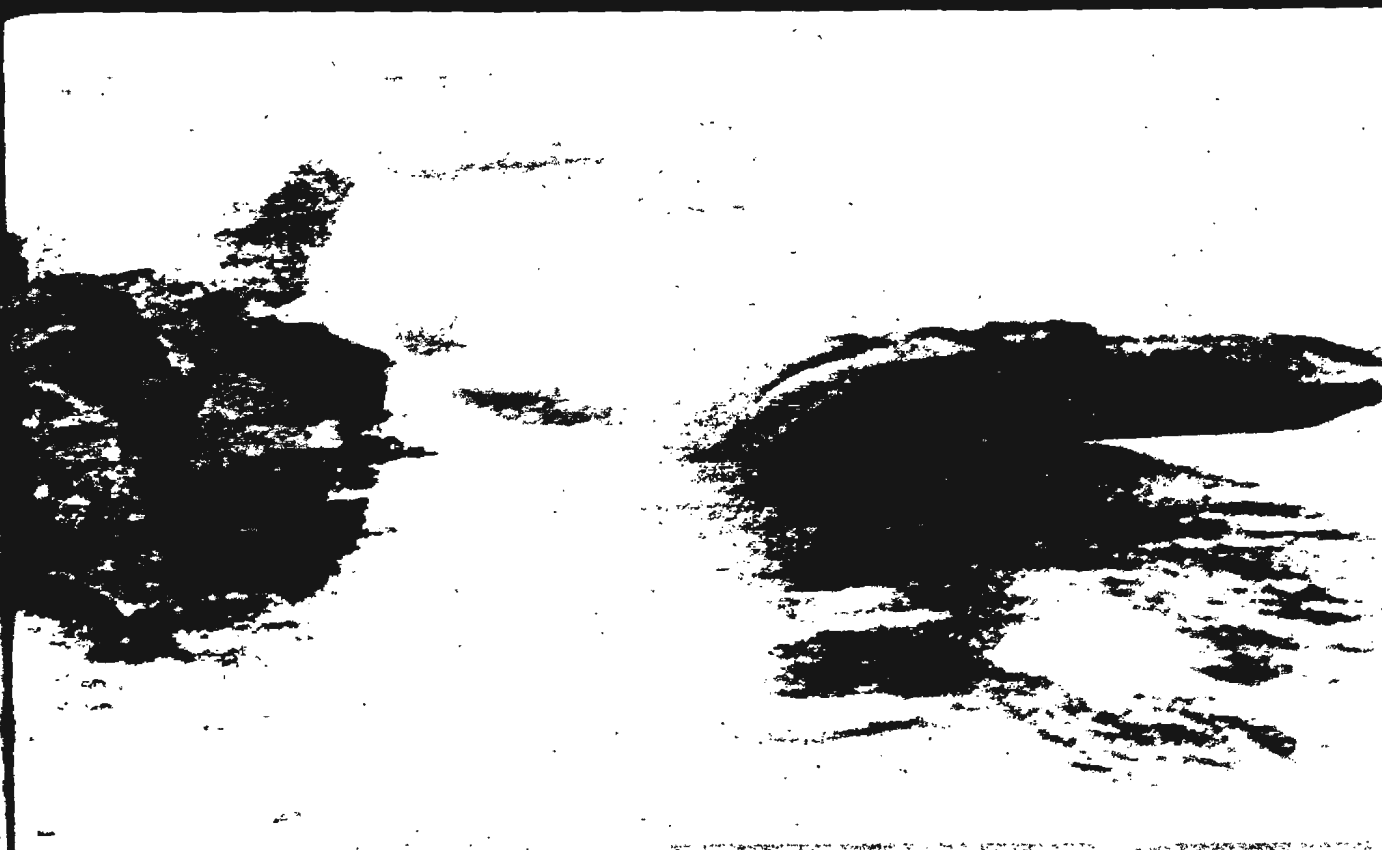
wheeling. They will go up again to Pointe du Hoc and shake their heads again in wonder at the men who climbed that sheer cliff while Germans fired down straight into their faces. The veterans will take photographs. But the more vivid pictures will be those fixed in their minds, the ragged, brutal images etched there on the day when they undertook to save European civilization.

The ceremonies in Normandy will celebrate the victory and mourn the dead. They will also mourn, almost subliminally, a certain moral clarity that has been lost, a sense of common purpose that has all but evaporated. Never again, perhaps, would the Allies so handsomely collaborate. The invasion of Normandy was a thunderously heroic blow dealt to the evil empire. Never again, it may be, would war seem so unimpeachably right, so necessary and just. Never again, perhaps, would American power and morality so perfectly coincide.

For one thing, it is difficult for history, more than once every few centuries, to invent a villain like Hitler and then propel him to such enormous power. The bad guys are rarely so horrible—although this century has been rather richly cast. Normandy in



# , 1944



later years became an almost unconscious reply to the pacifist view of war, for Operation Overlord led to the final destruction of a tyranny that was deemed more terrible than war itself.

Besides, the terms of war changed in the world. After Normandy and Eisenhower's "Crusade in Europe" came Hiroshima, and then the cold war and the pervasive, sinister presence of the Bomb that has made crusades more problematic. If a confrontation like Normandy were to transpire now between superpowers, a struggle to the death, it might be called Armageddon.

Normandy was, of course, a joint Allied operation. But the Americans, from Eisenhower down, dominated the drama. The invasion, in a way, was a perfect expression of American capabilities: vast industrial energy and organizational know-how sent out into the world on an essentially knightly mission—the rescue of an entire continent in distress. There was an aspect of redemption in the drama, redemption in the Christian sense. The Old World, in centuries before, had tided westward to populate the New. Now the New World came back, out of the tide, literally, to redeem the Old. If there has sometimes been a messianic

note in American foreign policy in postwar years, it derives in part from the Normandy configuration. America gave its begotten sons for the redemption of a fallen Europe, a Europe in the grip of a real Satan with a small mustache. The example of Hitler still haunts the Western conscience and the vocabulary of its policy (*Munich* and *appeasement*, for example). But when the U.S. has sought to redeem other lands—South Viet Nam, notably—from encroaching evil, the drama has proved more complex. The war in Viet Nam, in fact, had many Americans believing that the evil resided in themselves.

So the experience of Normandy, bloody as it was, has a kind of moral freshness in the American imagination, a quality of collective heroic virtue for which the nation may be wistful. *Liberation* meant something very wonderful and literal then. It had not acquired the cynical, even Orwellian overtone one hears in, say, "the liberation of Saigon." And there were things that seemed worth dying for without question. Today the questions always seem to overshadow the commitment. The morals of sacrifice, so clear then, are more confusing now.

—By Lance Morrow

Just the previous day, Stagg had warned that a gale would strike on June 5, and Eisenhower had reluctantly ordered a 24-hour postponement of D-day. The first troopships, already at sea, had to be called back. But now that the storm was actually upon them, Stagg offered what he called "a gleam of hope for you, sir." The next day, June 6, there would be some clearing of the skies, a break of perhaps 36 hours, no more. The cloud ceiling over the Normandy beaches would be about 3,000 feet, the waves only about three feet high.

The risks were tremendous. Postponement would mean another month before the moon and tides would again be so favorable, yet a miscalculation now might end in enormous casualties, perhaps even a shattering defeat. "I . . . sat silently reviewing these things, maybe, I'd say, 35 or 45 seconds . . ." said Eisenhower, who had reviewed these same things many times before. "I just got up and said, 'O.K., we'll go.'"

It has been written that there is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. Until Eisenhower made his decision, and until the highly uncertain outcome of D-day was assured, it was still theoretically possible that Hitler might yet win the war, or at least achieve a stalemate that would leave him the master of most of Europe.

The Allies had regained a great deal since the darkest days

of 1941 and early 1942, when the Germans' panzer divisions swept to within 40 miles of Moscow and their Japanese allies struck at Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, Malaya. The hitherto invincible Japanese navy had been checked at the Battle of Midway in June 1942, the Soviets held fast at Stalingrad, and the Anglo-American invasion of North Africa that autumn inspired Churchill to say that although victory there might not be the beginning of the end, it was perhaps "the end of the beginning."

Now, two years later, the Soviets had smashed all the way to the Polish frontier; the Americans had pushed northward to the gates of Rome; fleets of Allied bombers were steadily pulverizing all the major cities of Germany. But Hitler's battle-hardened force of 7 million men still dominated an empire extending 1,300 miles from the Atlantic to the Dnieper, and his scientists were on the verge of unsheathing their promised victory weapons, the long-range V-1 buzz bomb and V-2 rocket.

When and where to attack Hitler's *Festung Europa* was a question that the Allies had been debating for years. After Pearl Harbor, many American military leaders were adamant that the fight against Japan receive top priority. But the Army Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall, and Marshall's head planner, Brigadier General Eisenhower, argued for a strategy of throwing all possible resources into an invasion of France and the over-

## Omaha Landing

Drenched by the waning storm in the English Channel, and seasick as well, American troops heading for Omaha Beach hunker down as German shells burst near their landing craft. Many of the heavily burdened troops had to scramble out into neck-deep water with machine-gun bullets splashing all around them. At least ten of the landing craft foundered, as did 27 of the amphibious tanks assigned to provide support in establishing the beachhead.



SUPPENSCHER VERLAG

# D-Day

TIME/MAY 28, 1984

COVER STORIES

## "Every Man Was a Hero"

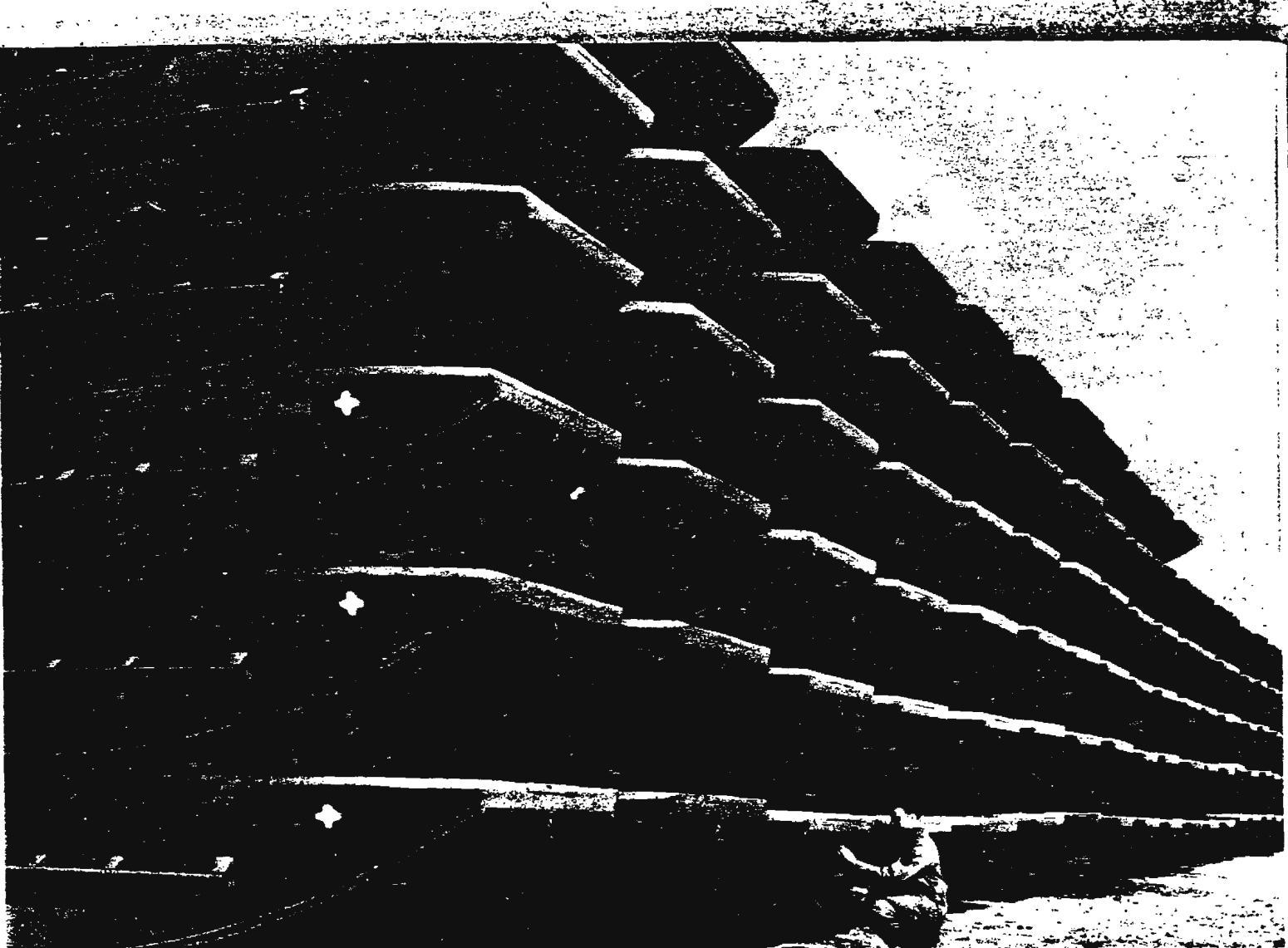
*Forty years later, a military gamble that shaped history is recalled*

*"From this day to the ending of the world,  
... we in it shall be remembered,—  
... we band of brothers;  
For he today that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother."  
—King Henry V*

The wind howled in the darkness as they went to the meeting. It was just before 4 a.m. on June 5, 1944, and the rain slashed

at them "in horizontal streaks," Dwight Eisenhower recalled later. The commanders of Operation Overlord were gathering around the fireplace in the library of Southwick House, outside Portsmouth, to hear a Scottish group captain named J.M. Stagg predict the next day's weather. On the basis of Stagg's calculations, Eisenhower would have to decide whether to give the attack order to the nearly 3 million troops assembled in southern Britain for the greatest seaborne invasion in history, the assault on Hitler's Atlantic Wall.





U.S. ARMY

## Buildup for Battle

In southern Britain, stacks of pontoons await shipment to France, where they were used to erect bridges. The two-year preparations for D-day required the greatest supply buildup in history: 2 million tons of weapons, mountains of K rations and candy bars, all bound for an artificial harbor named Port Winston.

throw of Hitler. Their major reason: the Soviets in 1942 were in full retreat, suffering heavy casualties and warning that the whole eastern front might collapse. Roosevelt and Churchill promised Stalin that they would open a second front by 1943.

Despite that promise, however, the British were haunted by the debacle of 1940, when they barely escaped destruction by evacuating their defeated army from Dunkirk just before the fall of France. They were no less haunted by the enormous bloodletting of World War I. "Memories of the Somme and Passchendaele," as Churchill put it, "... were not to be blotted out by time or reflection." Churchill persuaded Roosevelt to delay a risky assault on France and strike an easier target: North Africa. When that proved a swift success, the British continued urging a "Mediterranean strategy": an invasion of Sicily, an advance up the Italian peninsula. But the Italian campaign turned slow and bloody, and the American generals in Europe re-emphasized their basic plan to invade northern France, Operation Overlord. Marshall passionately wanted to take command of the operation himself. When Roosevelt insisted that he could not spare him, Marshall assigned the task to Eisenhower, by then a four-star general. Eisenhower went to London in January 1944 to lead what he was to call, on D-day itself, "a great crusade."

The Germans knew an invasion was inevitable. "An Anglo-

American landing in the West will and must come." Hitler told his key commanders that spring, but he added, "How and where it will come no one knows." The obvious place to attack was the coastal bulge known as the Pas de Calais, only 20 miles across the English Channel from Dover. That was where Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, whom Hitler had assigned to defend the Atlantic Wall, expected the landing to come. Rommel deployed his whole Fifteenth Army there, 208,000 men, to defend every mile of beach. "The first 24 hours will be decisive," he said.

The Allies went to great lengths to nourish this German illusion. They repeatedly bombed and shelled the Calais area as though to soften it up for an invasion. They even created an illusory docking area near Dover, complete with inflated rubber tanks, fake landing barges, dummy warehouses and barracks. Eisenhower assigned his friend, Lieut. General George S. Patton Jr., to command a largely phantom "First United States Army Group," which sent out messages about imaginary activities of the nonexistent troops. The British, meanwhile, created a fictitious "Fourth Army" in Edinburgh to threaten an invasion of Norway. The British were secretly monitoring the German response to the Allies' feints with ULTRA, the system by which the British had cracked the German code and could eavesdrop on all German military radio traffic.

The real goal, of course, was the crescent-shaped row of beaches along the northern coast of Normandy. They lay 100 miles from the great British ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, a span that no invader had successfully crossed in nearly three centuries. The Allies spent two years turning all of southern Britain into an arsenal and point of departure. They built 163 new airfields. They shipped in 2 million tons of weapons and supplies, 1,500 tanks, mountains of food and fuel. Since the targeted beachfront lacked harbors, Allied engineers built two enormous artificial harbors that could be towed across the Channel and moored in place once the beaches were won.

D-day was supposed to be early in May, but when British Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery...



## The Strategists

Memorable figures on both sides. Clockwise from upper left: Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower, the military diplomat, as he wishes luck to parachutists of the 101st Airborne just before their departure for the drop on Normandy; Britain's tempestuous Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery, operational commander of land forces, briefing reporters on the campaign's progress; Germany's independent-minded Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who was charged with defending the Atlantic Wall; and Lieut. General Omar Bradley, the quiet, self-effacing commander of the U.S. First Army.

Eisenhower's deputy for ground forces that January, he immediately balked at the preliminary plans for a 25-mile-wide invasion front. He told Eisenhower, who already had strong misgivings of his own, that the front must be much broader, about 50 miles, so that the Allies could land at least five divisions, instead of the planned three. The planners said they did not have enough landing craft for such an expansion. Get them, said Montgomery. That was impossible by the May deadline, said the planners. Then change the deadline, said Monty.

This was the final plan: 58,000 men from the U.S. First Army under General Omar Bradley would attack on the western section, at two strips code-named Omaha Beach and Utah Beach. To the east, a force of 75,000 men, drawn mostly from Lieut. General Sir Miles Dempsey's British Second Army but also including a Canadian division and an assortment of French, Polish and Dutch troops, would invade three adjoining beaches, Gold, Juno and Sword. Some 16,000 paratroopers from the U.S. 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions would drop in first to guard the western flank against counterattacks, and 8,000 men of the British 6th Airborne would seize and guard the eastern flank.

On the German side, Rommel had some 500,000 men strung out along an 800-mile front from Holland to Brittany, and he knew only too well how vulnerable they were. Since the bulk of German power was committed to the Russian front, his 213,000-man Seventh Army, charged with defending Normandy, was an untested force, filled out with middle-aged conscripts and unreliable recruits from Eastern Europe. Only 70,000 of the defenders were stationed near the targeted beaches. The Luftwaffe's fighter defenses had been seriously depleted in two years of air battles, and the remnants were in the process of being pulled back to defend the Reich itself. Three crack panzer divisions stood ready as a reserve, but Rommel could not count on them, for Hitler insisted on retaining personal control over their movements. Only recently had Rommel succeeded in organizing a crash program to install 1 million mines a month along the heavily barricaded beaches.

The most serious German failure, though, was in military in-

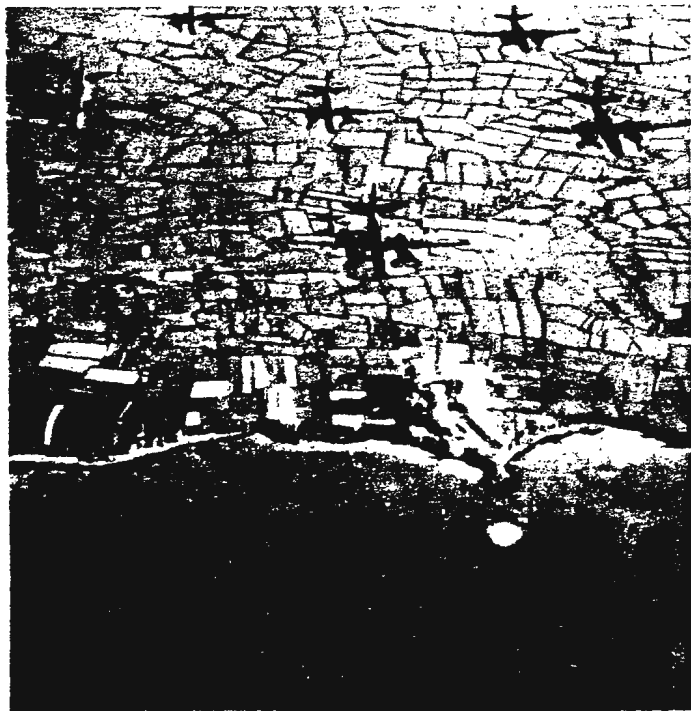
telligence. Apparently because of the bad weather, neither naval patrols nor reconnaissance planes maintained surveillance of the invasion preparations on the crucial last day before the landing. German meteorologists assured their commanders that the storm would prevent any Allied attack, and that prediction prompted Rommel to take a quick trip home. His wife's birthday happened to fall on June 6. When Rommel heard the news from Normandy at his home near Ulm, he could only say, "How stupid of me! How stupid of me!"

German intelligence had managed to learn in advance that when the BBC broadcast a sequence of two well-known lines of Verlaine's poetry, it was announcing to the French underground that the invasion would begin within 48 hours. At 10:15 p.m. on June 5, a German radio monitor with the Fifteenth Army in Calais heard the second line, "*Blessent mon coeur d'une langueur monotone*" (Wound my heart with a monotonous languor). The monitor warned his superiors; they ordered an alert, but nobody ever passed the word to the Seventh Army. These German intelligence failures and Eisenhower's daring gamble on the weather combined to give the Allied commander the one great weapon that he absolutely had to have: surprise.

Unaware of the German lapses, the Allies agonized until the last moment about the tremendous risks they were taking. "I am very uneasy about the whole operation..." said Sir Alan Brooke, chief of the Imperial General Staff, as late as June 5. "It may well be the most ghastly disaster of the whole war." In that same final week, Eisenhower's British deputy for air operations, Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, formally protested to Ike about the planned American parachute assault, which he said would result in the "futile slaughter" of two fine divisions.

Eisenhower could hardly help being troubled. "I went to my tent alone and sat down to think," he said. If he canceled the air-drop, that would leave the invaders of Utah Beach vulnerable to a German counterattack. He decided to stick to his plan. There is often, at such times, a sense of fatalism, of something preor-

## D-Day



### Command of the Air

Unopposed A-20 bombers from the U.S. Ninth Air Force attack German coastal defenses. Allied air superiority proved critically important throughout the Normandy campaign, first in softening up German positions, then in guarding the invaders on the beaches and finally in harassing German tanks moving forward for counterattacks. Germany's dwindling supply of fighters had been moved back to defend the Reich itself against punishing Allied bombing raids.

dained. General Matthew B. Ridgway, commander of the 82nd Airborne, felt it no less strongly. "Sometimes, at night," he recalled, "it was almost as if I could hear the assurance that God the Father gave to another soldier, named Joshua: 'I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.'"

Eisenhower spent that last night among the men of the 101st Airborne, who called themselves the Screaming Eagles. They had blackened their faces with burnt cork, and many had shaved their heads so that they looked like Indian warriors. They were tense and nervous, weighed down with not only rifles, pistols, knives and grenades but also cigarettes, first-aid kits, fresh socks, about 100 lbs. in all. Eisenhower's talk was simple but encouraging: "Where are you from, Soldier? Did you get those shoulders working in a coal mine? Good luck to you tonight, Soldier."

As the long line of twin-engine C-47s began taking off at seven-second intervals from Welford shortly after 10 p.m., Eisenhower stood there watching, his hands sunk deep in his pockets. He went on watching until the last plane circled into the darkness overhead. A correspondent standing near him said the general's eyes were full of tears. That same afternoon, after he watched the first troop convoys preparing to depart, Eisenhower had scribbled a strange note for himself, a message that would be ready if everything ended in disaster: "Our landings . . . have failed . . . The troops, the Air and Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone."

The 822 C-47s flew in tight, nine-plane V formations across the English Channel, an armada of shadows, only their lavender wing lights clearly visible in the thin moonlight. They took

than three hours to cross the Channel, then they dropped 17,000 ft. to make their landing run. Suddenly they plunged into the turbulence of a thick bank of clouds. The pilots reflexively separated to avoid collision. As they emerged from the blinding sheets of flak began exploding all around them. Sergeant Louis Truax saw his plane's left wing hit, and then the paratroopers went sprawling. "One man dived out the door headfirst," he said. "I grabbed the ammo belt . . . of the man I thought next and gave him a heave out nose first. The next man made it crawling. . . . Then I dived."

Some men were dropped miles from their landing sites, some were dropped far out at sea, some were dropped so low that their parachutes never opened. Private Donald Burgett recalled that they "made a sound like large, ripe pumpkins being thrown down against the ground." The 101st's commander, Major General Maxwell Taylor, was dropped at 500 ft. and said later, "God must have opened the chute."

There was another unforeseen hazard. The Germans had permitted a number of rivers to flood the fields, and many paratroopers landed with their burden of supplies in three or four feet of water. Father Francis Sampson, a Catholic chaplain, sank into water over his head and just barely managed to cut himself free from his chute. Then he had to dive down five or six times to retrieve his equipment for saying Mass. Private John Steele had a different kind of religious problem: his parachute caught on the steeple of the church in Ste.-Mère-Eglise, so he played dead while German patrols prowled the streets below. A stray bullet hit him in the foot. He watched another ammunition-laden paratrooper land on a burning house and explode. Others were shot while hanging in trees. After two hours, a German finally spotted Steele, cut him down and took him prisoner. American forces later rescued him when they occupied the town, the first in France to be liberated.

All night long the scattered paratroopers worked to re-establish contact, snapping cricket noisemakers to locate each other. (Most of their radios had been lost, along with 60% of their other supplies.) Sometimes the cricket sound drew German gunfire, but more often it brought lonely stragglers together into makeshift units (others remained lost for days). "When I began to use my cricket," General Taylor recalled, "the first man I met in the darkness I thought was a German until he crickets. He was the most beautiful soldier I'd ever seen, before or since. We threw our arms around each other, and from that moment I knew we had won the war."

Sometimes a single man could overcome absurd odds. Staff Sergeant Harrison Summers of the 101st was ordered to take 15 men and attack a German artillery barracks known only as WXYZ, actually a cluster of stone farm buildings. When the 15 showed signs of reluctance, Summers somewhat recklessly decided to goad them by leading the charge himself. He kicked in a door and sprayed the room with his submachine gun. Four Germans fell dead, and the rest ran out a back door. None of Summers' men had followed him, so he alone charged the second building; the Germans fled. By this time, one of Summers' men was providing covering fire as Summers burst into the third and fourth buildings, killed twelve Germans and chased out the rest. A private crept up and said to Summers, "Why are you doing it?" Said Summers: "I can't tell you." Said the private: "O.K., I'm with you." At the next building, the Americans killed 30 more Germans. Then they found 15 Germans inexplicably eating breakfast and shot them all. At the last building, the support gunner's tracers set the roof on fire, and an additional 30 Germans stumbled out to be shot down.

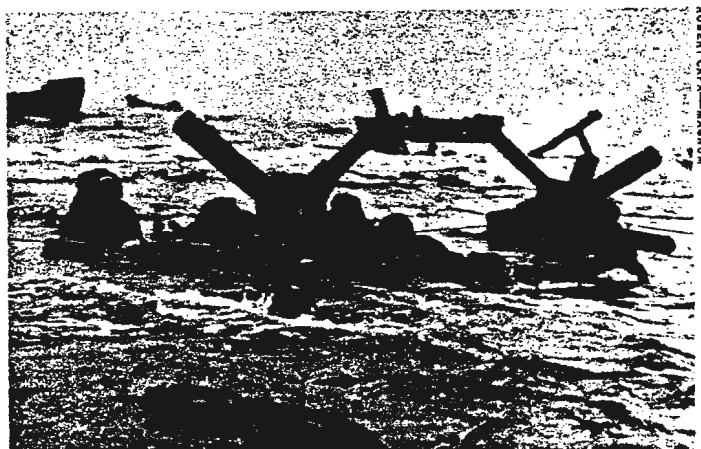
To the east, the British 6th Airborne had a somewhat easier time of it. Landing close to their targets just after midnight, the glider troops and parachutists caught the Germans by surprise. By dawn they had captured their main objectives, the bridges across the Orne and Dives rivers, securing the eastern flank of the British landing site.

The American assault from the Channel was set for 6:30 a.m. In the first gray and misty light, the sea suddenly appeared full of ships, some 5,000 vessels of every variety, and from



## Widening the Breach

U.S. troops and equipment kept pouring onto Omaha Beach after the D-day victory to reinforce units pressing inland. Barricades implanted by the Germans were a major obstacle to the first wave of invaders, right; but once the beaches could be partly cleared, Allied convoys funneled enormous quantities of supplies across the Channel from England, including more than 80,000 trucks and other vehicles during the first eleven days. The average G.I. used an estimated 30 lbs. of food, ammunition and other supplies every day.



ROBERT CAPA—MAGNUM

trained their 14 in. guns on German artillery batteries atop the cliffs towering over Omaha Beach; the *Nevada* and three cruisers pounded nearby Utah Beach. Twelve miles offshore, thousands of infantrymen scrambled down sheets of netting into the boxlike landing craft that began chugging toward the heavily mined and barricaded shore. Aboard the flagship *Augusta*, General Bradley stood with ears plugged by cotton and watched through binoculars as the vanguard of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions waded slowly into German machine gun fire on Omaha Beach. "The commanders who are engaged report that everything is proceeding according to plan," Churchill was to announce proudly in the House of Commons at noon that day. "And what a plan!"

To the top commanders, everything is always part of a plan, but to the ordinary soldiers in the landing craft, the invasion seemed more like a series of fragments that added up to chaos. The storm that was supposed to have died down still churned up waves four and five feet high, and the landing craft wallowed through them. White-capped waves slurped over the sides. Seasickness became epidemic. Drenched, shivering, scared and loaded down with almost 70 lbs. of wet battle gear, they had to keep bailing.

At least ten of the 1,500 small landing craft foundered. One lost 30 men out of 32 aboard. Others took shellbursts and a steady ping of bullets against the steel sides. Still others collided with the jagged obstacles and barbed wire that the Germans had embedded along the beach. The heavily burdened invaders had to scramble out into neck-deep water, or worse. A number of amphibious craft loaded with artillery turned back. Armored units had an even harder time. Their Sherman DD tanks were outfitted with devices that were supposed to keep

them afloat while they lurched ashore, but of the first 32 launched, 27 sank in the choppy waves and plunged to the bottom, taking most of their helpless five-man crews with them.

"Bullets tore holes in the water around me and I made for the nearest steel obstacle . . ." said Robert Capa, the only photographer to go ashore with the first troops. "Fifty yards ahead of me, one of our half-burnt amphibious tanks stuck out of the water and offered me my next cover . . . Between floating bodies I reached it, paused for a few more pictures and gathered my guts for the last jump to the beach . . ."

Lieut. Edward Tidrick was hit in the throat when he jumped into the water. Another bullet hit him as he lay on the beach. He gasped out a last command: "Advance with the wire cutters!" There were no wire cutters; they had been lost in the blood-streaked water.

Everywhere there were noise, explosions, gunfire and wrenching cries for help. "Medico! Medico! I'm hit! Help me!" Aboard one landing craft, a German shell struck a flamethrower strapped to one soldier's back. The explosion set the whole landing craft on fire, and it burned all day long, the fire punctuated by explosions from the craft's ammunition supply.

Captain Charles Cawthon of the 29th Division managed to reach cover under the embankment at the far end of Omaha Beach, and there he found that his gun was clogged with salt water and sand. "The embankment was strewn with rifles, Browning automatics and light machine guns, all similarly fouled," he recalled. "Except for one tank that was blasting away from the sand toward the exit road, the crusade in Europe

## D-Day

at this point was disarmed and naked before its enemies."

Several officers desperately tried to move their pinned-down men off the beach. But there were only four heavily defended exit roads and the bluffs ahead. "They're murdering us here!" cried Colonel Charles D. Canham, commander of the 116th Regiment, a blood-soaked handkerchief around his wounded wrist. "Let's move inland and get murdered."

Brigadier General Norman ("Dutch") Cota, assistant commander of the 29th Division, waved his .45 pistol as he strode heedlessly through the gunfire. When he found a cluster of soldiers in the shelter of the embankment, he asked them who they were. They said they were Rangers. "Then, goddammit," said the general, "if you're Rangers, get up and lead the way." They did. Under the cover of a brushfire that had been started by the Navy shelling, 35 men managed to scale the bluffs and get behind the German gun positions.

Another unit of 225 Rangers under Lieut. Colonel James Rudder was dispatched to Pointe du Hoc, a 100-foot-high promontory four miles west of Omaha and ten miles east of Utah. Their assignment: to knock out six heavily defended German 155-mm guns that could command both beaches. They fired rocket-propelled grappling hooks to the top of the cliff and then began the fearful climb up ropes and ladders. The Germans splattered the oncoming Rangers with machine gun fire, grenades, even boulders, and they managed to cut several of the ropes on which the Rangers were inching upward. By the time Rudder's men had seized the cratered cliff (and radioed back, "Praise the Lord"), only 90 of the 225 could still bear arms. And the German guns they had fought to capture they found hidden in an orchard a mile away, apparently moved as a result of earlier air raids.

The ships, meanwhile, kept ferrying in more troops, more guns, more supplies. Major Stanley Bach of the 1st Infantry Division managed to scribble a few notes: he saw a landing craft hit three mines. "Navy men go flying through the air into the water. They never come up." He saw a shell hit a beached landing craft, "flames everywhere, men burning alive." And again: "Direct hit on 2½-ton truck gasoline load; another catches fire . . . men's clothes on fire . . . attempt to roll in sand to put out flames."

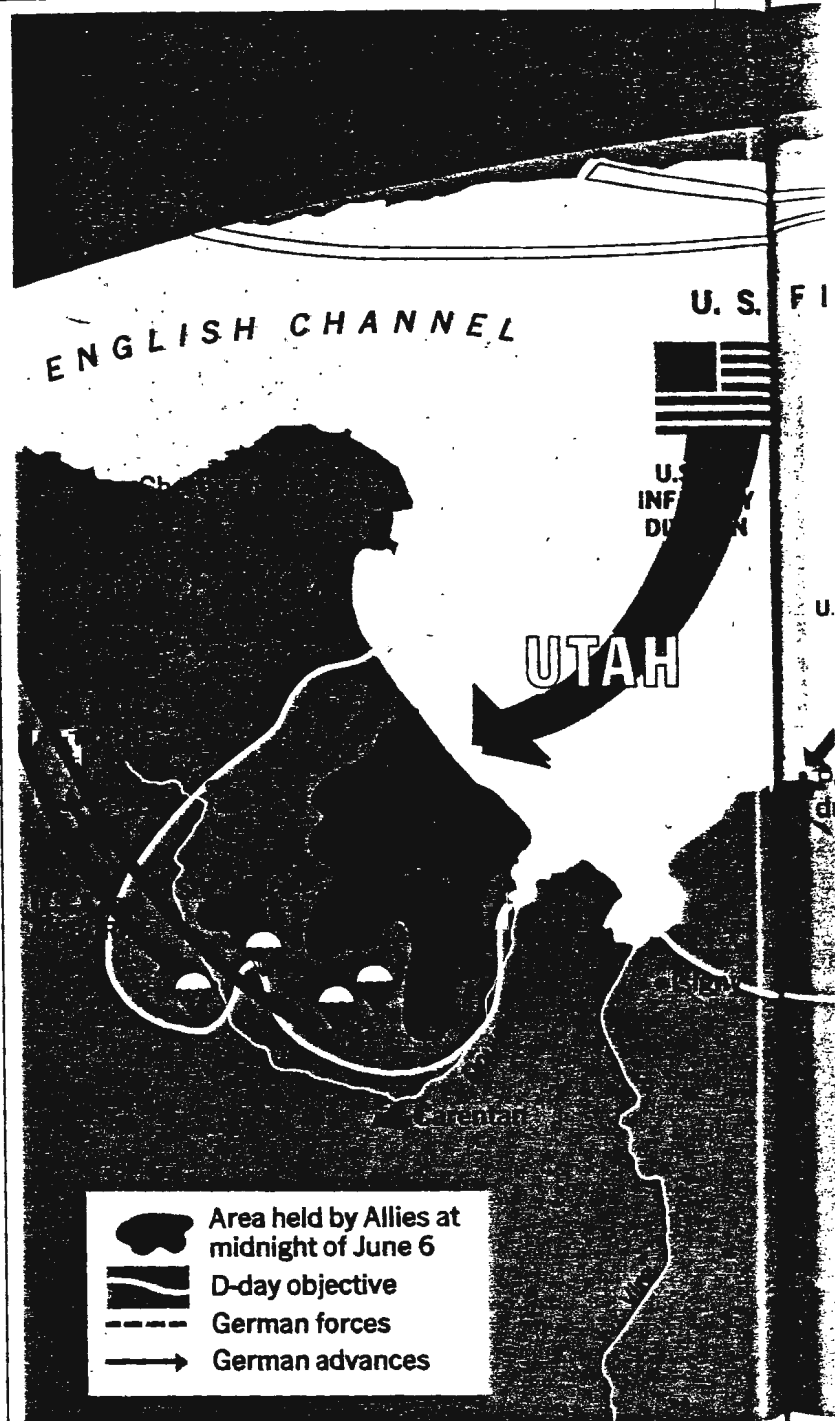
And still the Navy kept bombarding the coast. "The destroyers had run in almost to the beach and were blowing every pillbox out of the ground with their five-inch guns," wrote Ernest Hemingway, who watched from one of the landing craft. "I saw a piece of German about three feet long with an arm on it sail high up into the air in the fountaining of one shellburst. It reminded me of a scene in *Petrouchka*."

When General Bradley first spotted the faint shapes of his soldiers' corpses scattered along the beach, he began to fear that "our forces had suffered an irreversible catastrophe." He even considered abandoning Omaha Beach and diverting the reinforcements to Utah. But at 1:30 that afternoon he finally got a radio message that said, "Troops formerly pinned down . . . advancing up heights." Later, when the "nightmare" was all over, he could only say, "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero."

By the end of D-day, the Americans held the ridge of cliffs overlooking Omaha Beach, and had pushed about a mile inland.

They had landed two-thirds of their forces and suffered more than 90% of their casualties there. East and west of Omaha Beach, the landings had gone much more successfully. The U.S. 4th Division had seized Utah Beach with relatively little opposition and joined forces with the paratroopers who had been dropped near Ste.-Mère-Eglise. The British and Canadians had overwhelmed their three beaches and advanced about three miles inland toward the city of Caen. All told, the Allies had landed five divisions, some 154,000 men. It was a very precarious grip on the European mainland, but for this day, it would suffice.

Victory did not come cheap. The American losses reported for that day were grievous: 1,465 killed, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing. The British, who never announced their losses, were estimated to have suffered 2,500 to 3,000 casualties. Canadian casualties came to 946. Total Allied casualties: about



10,000. Estimates of German casualties: 4,000 to 9,000.

If there were mistakes and failures on the Allied side, they were insignificant compared with the blunders by the Germans. Not only did Rommel spend D-day speeding through the countryside, not only had the Luftwaffe withdrawn all the planes that were needed in Normandy, but the armored regiments that should have been thrown into the defense of Omaha Beach could not move without direct orders from Hitler, and Hitler's aides refused to wake him before 9:30 a.m.

When he did get up and hear the news, he persisted in believing that the Normandy invasion was just a feint, that he still had to guard against the real invasion that would occur at Calais. Not until ten hours after the Normandy landings did the first tanks of the 21st Panzer Division go into action against the British, and the British beat them back. When Rommel finally returned to his headquarters that night, he found his chief of staff, Lieut. General Hans Speidel, listening to Wagnerian opera records. One of Rommel's aides protested, but Speidel coolly answered, "You don't think that my playing a little music is going to stop the invasion."



Portsmouth (D-2172)

ASSEMBLY AREA

FIRST ARMY

BRITISH SECOND ARMY

Dover to Calais  
25 milesU.S. 1st INFANTRY  
DIVISION  
U.S. 2nd INFANTRY  
DIVISIONBRITISH 50th  
INFANTRY DIVISIONCANADIAN 3rd  
INFANTRY DIVISIONBRITISH 3rd  
INFANTRY DIVISIONU.S. 2nd RANGER  
BATTALION

BAY OF THE SEINE

OMAHA

GOLD

JUNO

SWORD

Le Havre

Arromanches

BRITISH 6th  
AIRBORNE

By then, nothing was likely to do that. The Americans kept pouring in; by the end of July, more than 800,000 had landed. With them came an almost unimaginable flood of equipment. Each day the average G.I. used up to 30 lbs. of food, ammo, gasoline and other supplies. More than 80,000 trucks and other vehicles landed in the first eleven days after D-day. Sixty million packs of K rations arrived in the first three weeks. Then came ice-cream machines, filing cabinets, blankets.

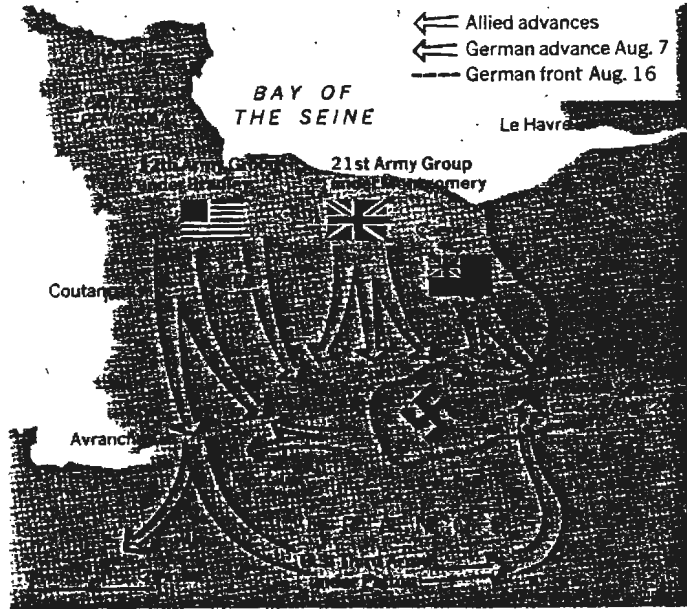
**A**fter the beaches had been secured on D-day, the first order of business was to organize a breakout. It had been an important part of Montgomery's strategy that British forces should thrust inland some 20 miles on D-day itself, well beyond Caen, a commercial crossroads. Partly out of caution, partly out of weariness, the vanguard of the British I Corps halted for the night about halfway there, some four miles north of the city. Compared with the victory on the beachhead, the failure to reach Caen that first day seemed a minor shortcoming. Montgomery even invited Churchill on June 10 to visit his forward headquarters in a lake-studded Norman chateau, and Churchill

admired "the prosperity of the countryside . . . full of lovely red and white cows basking or parading in the sunshine."

The conquest of Caen was considered essential for Allied armor to break out of the checkerboard hedgerows of Normandy and move on to the plains leading to Paris. But Montgomery's British forces could not manage to rout the two panzer divisions that had quickly established themselves on the outskirts of Caen. In the first week, the British tried a direct assault; toward the end of June, they tried two encircling attacks. Each time they failed. On the night of July 7, some 450 heavy bombers pounded Caen, and only then did the Germans begin to evacuate the rubble.

Montgomery's failure aroused severe criticism. "Montgomery went to great lengths explaining why the British had done nothing," General Patton wrote bitterly in his diary. There was talk of removing the temperamental Montgomery, and Churchill almost urged it. Other critics\* have faulted not only Montgomery but some of his commanders and troops, who seemed to have become cautious, unimaginative, war-weary.

\*For example, Max Hastings, author of a skillful new study, *Overlord*, due out next month.



## Allied Breakout

Two months of bloody stalemate ended with a U.S. breakthrough at St.-Lô, an ill-fated German counterattack toward Avranches, and Allied encirclement of Germans near Falaise. At right, U.S. antitank unit fires on German armor, and U.S. ambulances bring wounded soldiers back to the beach for transfer to Britain.

If so, it was painfully understandable, for the British alone had been fighting courageously against Hitler ever since the war began. While France collapsed and the Soviets stood as temporary allies of Germany, Churchill told his people that he had "nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat," and for five long years they had proudly pledged themselves to that offer.

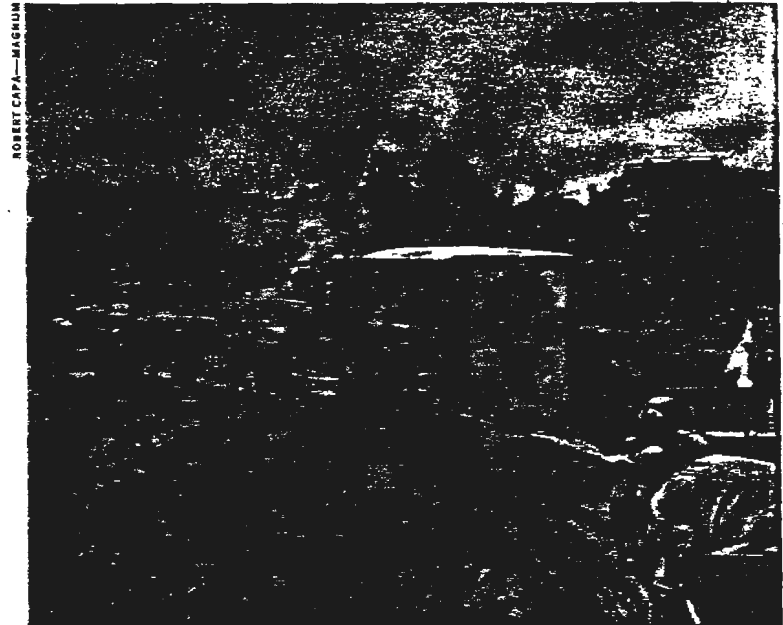
On June 27, Major General J. Lawton Collins' VII Corps captured Cherbourg (after the besieged Germans had destroyed most of the port facilities), but the Americans remained just as penned in as the British. More than 1 million men now appeared stalemated on a front of no more than 100 miles, and while neither side could win a decisive advantage in the swampy and hedgerowed terrain, both suffered heavy losses. "We were stuck," said Corporal Bill Preston of the 743rd Tank Battalion. "Something dreadful seemed to have happened in terms of the overall plan."

It was Bradley, working away with colored crayons on a set of maps in the seclusion of his tent, who figured out the solution that was to become known as Operation Cobra. "I said I didn't want to stand up and slug, but . . . at one time we were going to have to," Bradley told an aide. "Afterward we can make the breakthrough and run deep."

The point Bradley chose for slugging was a road that ran westward from the gutted city of St.-Lô toward a town called Périers. He picked "Lightning Joe" Collins to seize that road. At a cost of 5,000 casualties, the 29th and 35th Divisions finally captured the heights just west of St.-Lô.

Collins had discovered a secret weapon to get his tanks by Normandy's dense hedgerows. A sergeant in the 2nd Armored Division devised a way to attach to the front of a tank a pair of saw-toothed tusks, made from the steel barricades that once obstructed the landing beaches. These tusks could break through a hedgerow in a few minutes.

Once the breakthrough came, it came quickly. Within a week after Collins' men had seized the St.-Lô-Périers road, General Patton's newly organized Third Army started to push south and in one day advanced 40 miles into Brittany. "Whether the enemy



can still be stopped at this point is questionable," German headquarters near Paris warned Hitler. "The enemy air superiority is terrific and smothers almost every one of our movements . . . Losses in men and equipment are extraordinary."

Hitler launched his "retaliation" against Britain scarcely a week after D-day: some 2,300 V-1s hit London that summer, killing 5,400 civilians more or less at random. But this new terror weapon failed to achieve Hitler's hope of somehow reversing Germany's military fortunes. On June 23, the Soviets launched a gigantic midsummer offensive across a 300-mile front east of Minsk and demolished 28 German divisions within a month. On July 20, Hitler's own Wehrmacht officers turned against him. Colonel Count Claus von Stauffenberg planted under Hitler's conference table a bomb that was supposed to kill the Führer. A shaken and partly deafened Hitler survived to wreak vengeance on the conspirators (even Rommel, who was not directly involved, was forced to take poison) and to add a manic streak to his own supervision of the war.

Hitler's top generals urged him to pull back from Normandy and establish a new defensive line on the Seine. Hitler refused. He ordered Field Marshal Günther von Kluge, his commander in the west, to launch an immediate counterattack against the American breakthrough force. Into this he flung not only the battered remnants of the Seventh Army but also the Fifteenth Army, which had been at the Pas de Calais awaiting the invasion that never came. Their mission: to cut through American lines to the port of Avranches and isolate the twelve American divisions that Patton had led south into Brittany.

Bradley was delighted at the prospect: "This is an opportunity that comes to a commander not more than once in a century," he gloated to a visitor from Washington. "We are about to destroy an entire hostile army." As the Germans plunged westward, Bradley began creating an enormous pincer to encircle them. Patton's tanks raced eastward toward Argentan while the British moved south from Caen toward Falaise. When Von Kluge's offensive hit the American lines near Mortain, it hit hard. But the Americans held until reinforcements could reach them. "Whether the enemy



were, coming off the hill!" one lieutenant said, recalling that moment toward the end of the six-day battle when the relief troops arrived.

Then Bradley began to close his pincers. Patton's forces reached Argentan on Aug. 12, and Bradley ordered Patton to halt there and wait for the British to reach Falaise. But it took another week before Canadian forces finally closed the trap. During that time, a sizable number of German troops managed to escape through the unclosed pincer, but a good many more failed. Within the trap, ten German divisions were taken prisoner, and bodies lay everywhere, some 10,000 in all. "It was literally possible," said Eisenhower, "to walk for hundreds of yards at a time, stepping on nothing but dead and decaying flesh." Bulldozers were called in to sweep away the carnage.

And so the battle for Normandy was over, and when it was, the end of the war was in sight. "If by the coming winter you have freed beautiful Paris from the hands of the enemy," Churchill had said to Eisenhower shortly before D-day, "I will assert the victory to be the greatest of modern times." Said Eisenhower: "Prime Minister, I assure you that the coming winter will see the Allied forces on the borders of Germany itself." It took less than a week after the closing of the Falaise gap, until Aug. 24, for the Allies to reach the gates of Paris. There was lots of hard fighting ahead—the Battle of the Bulge, Arnhem, not to mention Iwo Jima and Okinawa—but the Allied victory was now inevitable.

**B**ut what if it had all gone differently back there on the beaches of Normandy? What if the Luftwaffe had been there to bomb and strafe the invaders? What if the panzers had moved in quickly for a counterattack? What if the storm had suddenly worsened? What if the whole landing force had been destroyed on the beach?

Hitler once indulged in some sanguine speculations. "Once the landing has been defeated, it will under no circumstances be repeated by the enemy," he told aides. Roosevelt would be defeated in the 1944 elections, "and, with luck, he would finish up somewhere in jail." Even Eisenhower, a natural optimist, thought a de-

## Bloody Skirmishes

**U.S. antitank unit, pinned down by sniper fire in a Normandy field, opens up on a house believed to be the source of firing. "I didn't want to stand up and slug," said General Bradley, "but at one time we were going to have to."**

feat on D-day "might mean the complete redeployment to other theaters (*i.e.*, the Pacific) of all United States forces."

More probably, the consequences would have been somewhat less apocalyptic. The Allies were all deeply and emotionally committed to the destruction of Nazism, and American industrial power was already more than making up for the depletion of British and Soviet resources. The odds are that the Allies would have reorganized their forces and invaded all over again, perhaps aiming at southern France or the Balkans. And the atomic bomb was well under way. The war had to be won.

When the fighting ended, both victors and vanquished found themselves in a world that had been changed forever. Most important, perhaps, was that the U.S., long a second-rank power primarily concerned with its own affairs, was now the world's unique superpower. "The U.S. became conscious of its world role and of its duty toward the world," says former French Foreign Secretary Maurice Schumann, who waded ashore with a British unit on D-day. "That feeling remains."

Scarcely less important, though, was that the battered and backward Soviets had also won themselves a major role in the world. It was that prospect, in fact, that inspired some Western strategists to argue for a Normandy invasion as early as 1943, not only to help Stalin continue fighting but to prevent him from eventually dominating Central Europe. One such strategist was General Albert C. Wedemeyer, who helped draft the Overlord strategy later adopted by Eisenhower and Marshall. "The idea

here," says Wedemeyer, now 87, "was to get ashore as early as we could, advance as fast as we could, and at war's end have Anglo-American troops in control." Churchill too had hopes of advancing into the Balkans and perhaps even reaching Vienna before the Soviets. The Big Three leaders agreed at the Yalta Conference of February 1945, however, that the advancing Allied armies should meet in central Germany, thus dividing the conquered land and consigning Eastern Europe to the Soviets.

To more idealistic observers, the Allied invasions demonstrated the power of international cooperation. It was the success of the wartime alliance that inspired the founders of the United Nations in 1945. The Marshall Plan was the victorious general's idea for international economic reconstruction. Even when the cold war destroyed all hope of global cooperation, memories of the wartime alliance inspired the birth of NATO and the Common Market.

Other changes that were inherent in the peace of 1945 took longer to become fully clear. When the Soviet army liberated Maidanek and Auschwitz and the other Nazi death camps in Po-

land, the birth of Israel in 1948 became an inevitability. The Middle East would never be the same.

More broadly, the end of the war permanently altered the imperial relations that had governed much of the world for about four centuries. Churchill, who once said he had not become Prime Minister to oversee the liquidation of the British Empire, lived to see it liquidated by others. India, Malaya, Kenya and other imperial outposts demanded and won the right to govern themselves. France's General De Gaulle, who had simply been notified of D-day rather than invited to help lead the attack, imperiously reasserted French claims to rule Lebanon, West Africa and Indochina. The Dutch vainly tried to cling to Indonesia. But the days of such European empires were irrevocably ending. A Third World was struggling to be born.

**T**hese were among the long-range political consequences of D-day, but all this was largely unknown to the men who bled on Omaha Beach. D-day was first of all a battle between two great forces, and the lessons that it teaches, 40 years later, are fundamentally the lessons that all great battles teach, over and over:

That even the most carefully prepared plans often go wrong. That lucky breaks are very important. That a small number of brave and determined men can make an immense difference. That some men fight with incredible courage under fire, and that some do not. That men usually fight better in a good cause, but that some fight just as well in a bad cause. That morale is essential to victory, and that nothing improves morale so much as superior firepower. That war is cruel and wasteful but sometimes necessary. That a blundering victory is more to be valued than a heroic defeat. That might and right sometimes come to the same end.

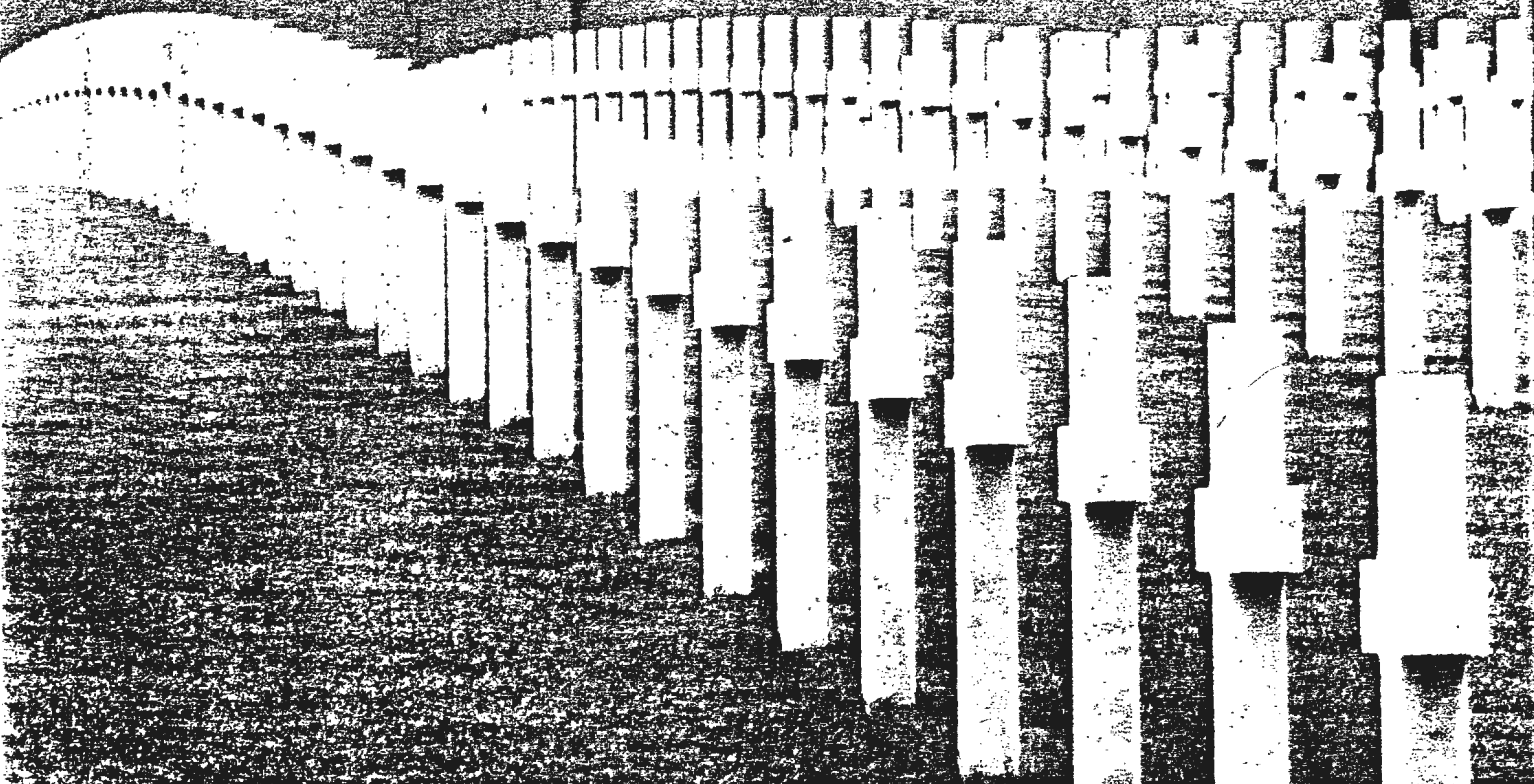
All these things happened on June 6, 1944. —By *Otto Friedrich*



## On to Paris

British infantrymen advance through a shattered Normandy village. Below, U.S. Jeeps and a cow share a deserted street in battered but liberated St.-Lô. It took scarcely a week after the closing of the Falaise gap for Allied spearheads to reach Paris.





Row on row of graves inspire reverence in visitors to the U.S. cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, above Omaha Beach, where 9,386 are buried

## D-Day

# Daisies from the Killing Ground

*For returning vets, Normandy brings a crosscurrent of emotions*

**O**n the Atlantic coast of France, just above the pointing finger of Brittany, Normandy juts out like a green thumb into the blue-gray waters of the English Channel. At this time of year, the lush countryside is lit up with apple, pear and cherry blossoms. Along narrow country lanes, lilacs bloom around stone farmhouses and over ancient walls. Cowslips, daisies and bluets ripple through the wet pastures, interrupted regularly by thick hedgerows. Once again the surging Norman spring is laying down a floral carpet over the old killing ground.

For the Normandy veterans who come back for the first time, the experience often brings a bewildering rush of emotional crosscurrents: nostalgia for the pride and purpose they felt as young soldiers mixed with something akin to guilt for having survived when death randomly took so many friends. At Omaha Beach, where the water's edge turned red from American blood, returning veterans remember the deafening roar of battle, the smoke and confusion. All they can hear now is the lap of a low surf, the keening of

seagulls and occasionally the shouts of children playing on the beach. The puzzle is how to connect the remembered knot of constant fear, the moments of horror and exhilaration in combat, with the tranquil landscape beyond the beach. It is a vision by Edvard Munch imposed on a romantic painting from *la Belle Epoque*. Some of the veterans, now mainly in their 60s, simply sit down on the beach and stare out to sea. For others, the contrast between recollection and reality, that old trick of time, brings tears to the eyes.

Samuel Fuller, 71, a film director and screenwriter who lives in Los Angeles, was 31 when he hit Omaha Beach as a corporal with the 3rd Battalion, 16th Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division, the Big Red One. A small, intense man with a cigar perpetually in his mouth, Fuller returned this month for the first time and felt a little lost. He could not find the pillbox that his unit bypassed on the way to the cliffs beyond the beach. The tall tree on the heights, designated before the landing as an assembly point, was missing. In a surprised, almost wounded tone, Fuller

noted, "All the wreckage is gone." It was hard for him to believe that all those destroyed landing craft, tanks and trucks had disappeared. "Look at the parking lot and the vacation houses," said Fuller. "The place has turned into a resort!" Still, he was moved by the sight. Hoisting his nine-year-old daughter Samantha onto his shoulders, Fuller moved across the 200 yards of beach to the water line. For a moment he stood there silently, then retraced his steps of 40 years ago with his child, instead of a pack, on his back.

Like many combat veterans, Fuller rejects the idea of any glory attached to war. "We were just doing our job," he likes to say. At Omaha, nonetheless, Fuller won a Silver Star for an act that he refuses to regard as particularly heroic. Ripped by machine-gun and artillery fire as they hit the beach, the Americans lay flat in the shallow water, or painfully dragged themselves up the sand despite being wounded. Fuller was hugging the ground when an officer crawled over and ordered him to find Regimental Commander Colonel George A. Taylor and tell him...

"There were bodies and blood all over. How was I supposed to run? I had a horror of stepping on corpses. But I finally reached him 200 yds. away. Then Taylor did an amazing thing. He stood up and shouted, 'Two kinds of people are staying on this beach, the dead and those who are going to die. Now let's get the hell out of here.' And then he led us off."

In the chaos on the beach, Fuller recalls a burning ammunition truck, the driver dead at the wheel, careering toward his pinned-down unit. Some unknown soldier leaped into the cab and steered the smoldering vehicle into the sea, where it exploded. Soaking wet on the beach, Fuller remembers a cold so bitter he barely could move his fingers. The weeks of hedgerow fighting that followed have turned into a sickening blur: "You're out of control. You shoot at anything. Your eyes hurt. Your fingers hurt. You're driven by panic. We never looked at the faces of the dead, just at their feet—black boots for Germans, brown for G.I.s."

Even though Fuller made a movie called *The Big Red One* about his old division four years ago, he thinks war is impossible to convey on film because "you can't see anything in actual combat. To do it right," he says, "you'd have to blind the audience with smoke, deafen them with noise, then shoot one of them in the shoulder to scare the rest to death. That would give the idea, but then not many people would come to the theater."

Above the beach in the village of Colleville-sur-Mer, Fuller headed for an old café he remembered and asked for Joseph Brobant, the first French civilian he had seen. Brobant had come running down the road toward the advancing troops, carrying a shovel. "It's a wonder we didn't shoot him," says Fuller. "We were told to shoot at anything that moved on that road." Brobant, who had been forced into virtual slave labor by the Germans, excitedly indicated to the American infantrymen that he had just killed three of his captors with his shovel. Now 82, Brobant at first did not recognize the U.S. soldier who had teased him about his funny hat. Fuller drew a sketch of the white cap that Brobant had worn then, and the old Frenchman's eyes lit up in recognition. Shouting and laughing, the two men bear-hugged each other, overjoyed at finding a living connection to that distant day.

Making that kind of connection is more difficult for most veterans. Often they hunt for the side of a hill, a particular hedgerow or some other now inconspicuous landmark that is burned in their memories. Two Canadians found the precise corner of a pasture they remembered near Arromanches. No trace of war remained. But digging into the soft earth, the two men finally uncovered a rusted Canadian helmet. A former U.S. sergeant spent an entire day looking for the house where he had knocked out a German machine gun. When he found it, he cried,



British veterans survey the battlefield at Pointe-du-Hoc; a Sherman tank at Ste.-Mère-Eglise

"That is why I came, that is why I came." William K. Van Hoy, 62, a retired postman from Milwaukie, Ore., wanted to show his son the place near St.-Malo where he was wounded on Aug. 8, 1944.

What sticks in Van Hoy's memory even more vividly, though, is an incident during the attack on St.-Lô. "I had just lost two of my best friends," he says. "They were picked off right next to me. Then, in St.-Lô, we had just seized an artillery battery and taken all these prisoners when our own artillery started hitting all around us. I jumped into a bunker hole with two of the Germans. They marked on the side of the wall that they were 17 years old and had bicycled for three weeks from Germany to get there." Says Van Hoy, his face full of wonder, "You know I actually felt sorry for them."

For 37 out of the past 40 years, Theodore Liska, now a hotel manager in Mons, Belgium, has returned to Normandy for the anniversary of D-day. Liska, a native of Chicago, was a sergeant in the 4th Infantry. As a survivor he feels a debt to "the men who won the war, those who gave their lives. The rest of us didn't." Compared with Omaha, the landing at Utah was easy, but a mile or two inland Liska's unit began to take heavy casualties. The Germans had flooded a swath of fields nearly a mile wide. Liska and his men kept their sea-landing life jackets on for the first 24 hours, as they struggled through waist-high water. Says Liska: "We were just like sitting ducks for

the Germans, sitting ducks in a pond." Human corpses became so familiar to Liska that by an odd flinch of his mind he vividly recalls instead pastures full of dead cows. "They were all lying there on their backs with their legs in the air," he says, "and I remember thinking that I never had seen a dead cow before."

By the same selective memory, veterans dwell on spontaneous displays of mercy in combat rather than on acts of brutality. Although no one wants to be reminded that both sides occasionally shot prisoners, usually because they lacked the time or means to guard them, one notorious exception is the 12th SS Panzer Division's murder of nearly 40 Canadian and British prisoners in a château garden near Bayeux. Liska's unit ran into a handful of soldiers in German uniforms from the conquered Eastern territories who had probably been pressed into service. Said Liska, "They kept saying they were Russians or Poles. The Americans didn't know who was who so they shot them."

Then there were the sudden gestures of respect for the enemy that occasionally graced the killing. Edwin Schmieger, a former parachutist with the German 3rd Parachute Division, is one of 100 or so German veterans who chose to settle in Normandy after the war, mainly because the Soviet army had overrun their former homes in Poland and Germany. A skilled carpenter who restores old furniture, Schmieger recalls coming under fire from three American tanks. "One of my comrades was wounded in both legs," recount-

ed Schmieger, "and without thinking I left my cover to put a tourniquet on his wounds. The American tanks were shooting us like rabbits, but during those minutes while I was exposed, they held their fire. Forty years later, I take my hat off to those men for the nobility of that gesture."

Roger Lantagne, a medic with the 101st Airborne, married a Frenchwoman when the war ended and retired nine years ago to Enghien-les-Bains outside Paris after more than three decades of military service in Korea, Viet Nam and Europe. Lantagne, a native of Lewiston, Me., remembers that he was tending German and American wounded in a village church not far from Utah Beach when the village was recaptured by the Germans. "A high-ranking German, accompanied by troops with automatic weapons, suddenly burst into the church. They looked at us, at the bloodstained pews and the German wounded, then turned around and went out without saying anything." Lantagne has befriended some of the German veterans of the campaign. "The Wehrmacht soldiers were ordinary guys," he says, "but the SS troops were something else. They gave no quarter."

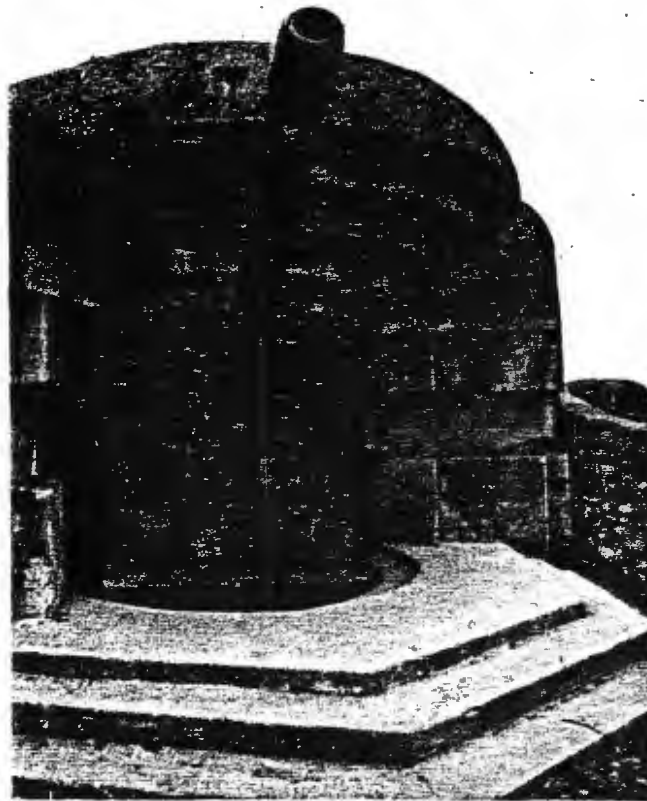
One of the crack German units was the Panzer Lehr Division, in which Colonel Helmut Ritgen served. Ritgen, who retired eight years ago from a military career and now lives near Hannover, says that Allied firepower in the Normandy campaign was overwhelmingly greater than anything he had faced on the Eastern Front. "We felt superior to the Russians," he recalls. "At first we were even convinced that we would be able to throw the Allies back from the beaches. But just moving up toward the front in Normandy under air attack discouraged us."

For Ritgen, as for most veterans, the war is never far from mind. On a trip to Scotland last year, he visited Culloden Moor, the site of the last battle fought between the English and the Scots. Says he: "I would like to think that Normandy began the last battle between West Europeans. It was the start of a new Europe in which we have had 40 years of peace."

It is in the same spirit that the Normans recall the bloody beginning of France's liberation. Many French families were forced to house and feed the German occupiers. Resistance was dangerous and reprisals murderous, yet a minority accepted the risks out of a youthful idealism that they look back on with something close to awe. On D-day, the Germans executed 92 Frenchmen who had been held in the Caen prison on charges of helping the Allies through sabotage or intelligence activities. Among the

French survivors of that time, though, there is no undercurrent of anti-German feeling today. Liberation—and time—healed their wounds.

~~Michel de la Vallevielle, mayor of Ste. Marie du Mont, a village above Utah Beach, lost two brothers during the German invasion of France. His family farm was occupied by the Germans, who deployed a battery of 88-mm guns in the orchard. On D-day, U.S. paratroopers mistook De la Vallevielle for a German and shot him five times. A sixth bullet split his billfold. He explains his survival by citing a thought from his grandfather, a World War I veteran, who "always said that it took a man's weight in bullets to kill him."~~ Evacuated to England for treatment of his wounds, De la Vallevielle returned home to become an honorary member of the



German pillbox still aims its gun out to sea near Longues

The message in a cemetery visitors' book: "Never again."

U.S. 90th Infantry Division for the help he gave to visiting veterans and his work in improving the Utah Beach Landing Museum. Though he honors the reasons why the Allies came and fought, De la Vallevielle says, "For me who had two brothers killed and has six children, I don't want any more killing. Hardly anything remains of that tragedy, but there should be a reminder for everyone."

Another guardian of remembrance is Henri Levaufre, who was 13 years old when the invasion began. After the war, as an engineer for the government power company, Levaufre kept coming across foxholes and trenches and began noting their locations on survey maps. Soon he

became the unofficial expert for G.I.s who wanted to seek out the places they had been during the fighting. He arranged for the veterans to stay with French families. Levaufre too was made an honorary member of the 90th Division. Five years ago, he set up an extraordinary reunion between members of the 90th and the men they fought in the German 6th Parachute Regiment. No military music or medals were allowed. As the hesitant German soldiers lined up on one side of the banquet hall, the American G.I.s walked across to greet them. Each German presented an American with a rose. "One of the Americans was blind," recalls Levaufre. "As he walked by, the Germans began to cry."

For the past 37 years, a committee for the landings, made up for the most part of local Norman mayors, has organized D-day anniversaries, cared for and improved two local war museums at Utah Beach and Arromanches, and generally, but not invariably, preserved decorum at the landing sites. At Chez Mimile, a café in St.-Laurent-sur-Mer, for example, a visitor can buy small white cloth bags labeled in both French and English, EASY GIFT TO TAKE HOME—SAND FROM THE LANDING BEACHES—25 FRANCS.

Though arrangements for the 40th anniversary have largely been taken over by the French government, the local committee will be back in charge next year, working to create what it hopes will become a living museum stretching 60 miles along the length of the invasion beaches. Last year about 1.5 million visitors, almost half of them Americans, stopped to gaze at the 172-acre U.S. cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, where 9,386 soldiers are buried beneath an immaculate lawn. The sheer multitude of white crosses and Stars of David, arranged in neat rows that undulate over the green expanse, forces a hushed reverence, even on buses filled with students born long after the event. Caen Mayor Jean-Marie Girault points out that a high proportion of the people who come to the D-day beaches are young. "It was a struggle against totalitarianism," he says. "And it's still going on. They ask questions about it. They want to know what happened."

The British cemeteries seem cozier, with rows of flowers and bushes along the lines of gravestones. Farther inland at Orglandes, the German cemetery is resolutely austere; its 10,152 graves are marked with blunt crosses of lavender-flecked gray granite. Few tourists come to the German cemetery, but those who do often feel compelled to write a comment in the visitors' book at the entrance. A German wrote, "Nie wieder" (never again), and the same message is repeated, page after page, in French and

# Overpaid, Oversexed, Over Here

*The Yanks came with chocolate and left with British brides*

The joke in Britain 40 years ago was that only the thousands of stubby little barge balloons, tugging at their cables above every spot that might offer a target to low-flying German planes, kept the island from sinking into the sea under the weight of men and machines massing for D-day. London was a kaleidoscope of uniforms: British, Commonwealth, French, Norwegian, Belgian, Czech, Dutch, Polish and, of course, American. So many U.S. officers worked around Grosvenor Square that G.I.s walking through the area kept their arms raised in semipermanent salute. In the southern counties, near the coast from which the armada would sail, military convoys clogged the crooked lanes of the countryside; entire fields disappeared under swarms of tanks and trucks and piles of ammunition and fuel.

Everybody was trying to figure out what to make of the roughly 1.5 million Americans who poured into England between July 1943 and D-day, introducing many Britons to such exotica as jitter-bugging, Jeeps and even pitchers' mounds. When a mound was installed in Wembley Stadium for a baseball game between two U.S. service teams in early June 1944, the London *Times* informed puzzled readers that "its use adds to the speed of throw." Despite their far-reaching empire, many Britons, particularly in the smaller towns, had never seen a black man until the G.I.s arrived.

The Americans, bursting into an England gone drab and gray and plagued with shortages of everything after four years of war, were nothing if not jaunty. Residents of Somerset still remember G.I.s tossing chocolate bars and gum out of passing trucks to goggle-eyed children. According to a popular gag, so much American chewing gum had been tossed in the fountains of London's Trafalgar Square that the pigeons there were laying rubber eggs.

"Hi ya, cutie" was the universal greeting called out to females from 15 to 50. "They took all the girls," mutters one British war veteran who on the whole liked the Americans. And indeed the walls outside American barracks were lined every night with panting couples twined in a last embrace before bed check. William D. Kendall, who represented the town of Grantham, complained in Parliament that "it is unfit for a woman to walk unescorted" there because of the "unconcealed immorality" of the

G.I.s. Others of course had a different opinion; some 60,000 British women eventually became American war brides.

Grouse though they did about the G.I.s being "overpaid, oversexed and over here," most Britons found the Americans to be warmhearted and valiant Allies. Thousands of English families opened their homes to American servicemen, who responded with equal generosity. Glen Brimblecombe of Ilsington in Devon



A different kind of fleet anchors at Dartmouth, once a D-day port. Plaques abound, but the buddies and excitement are gone.

recalls that as a child "I wanted a bicycle for Christmas. Very selfish, I know now, for Mum could not afford it. Mac, an American sailor from Stover Camp, whom I can still remember, appeared on Christmas morning with a brand-new Elswick bicycle."

All the while, an air of tension was building. Everyone speculated about the date of the invasion, despite the posters that exhorted CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES and ended in an execrable pun, BE LIKE DAD. KEEP MUM. An American major general blabbed at a cocktail party, "On my honor, the invasion takes place before June 13." An angry Dwight Eisen-

hower ordered him reduced in rank to lieutenant colonel and sent back to the U.S. As the invasion was about to begin. Leonard Dawe, a physics teacher who composed crossword puzzles for the London *Daily Telegraph*, was grilled by Scotland Yard detectives. They could not believe Dawe was unaware that such words as Utah, Omaha, Neptune and Overlord, all of which had appeared in his puzzles, were code names connected with D-day.

As D-day drew closer, English civilians saw increasingly less of the Americans, or for that matter their own soldiers. As early as December 1943, residents were cleared out of coastal villages that the invaders needed for training and sent elsewhere for a year or so. Butcher George Hannaford recalls that when he returned home to the hamlet of Torcross at the age of 13, "a cowshed and a pigsty were demolished out back of my father's shop, and apple trees were down. It was a tank park there, I think." After April 1, 1944, no unauthorized civilian travelers were allowed within ten miles of some eastern and all southern shores.

PETER JORDAN

The armies then stepped up massive landing rehearsals against fortifications similar to those the Germans had erected in Normandy. Exercise Tiger, off Slapton Sands on April 28, ended in tragedy when German torpedo boats slipped into a line of landing ships and sank two. A total of 750 Americans died. Though a U.S. divisional history mentioned the incident as far back as 1948, it has attracted widespread attention only in recent weeks.

On the night of June 5, American paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division boarded C-47s at Greenham Common and embarked on their fateful flight to Normandy. Today the airbase there is the scene of bitter protests by the British peace movement against the stationing of U.S. nuclear missiles. "Oh, how short our memories are!" exclaimed the writer of a recent letter to a local weekly, taking angry issue with the protesters.

After the anticipation of the pre-invasion weeks, the great battle "seemed almost anticlimactic," recalls Kathleen Frost, who as a clerk typed up some of the D-day orders. Today the beaches, lanes and fields of southern England are quiet again, ever-present plaques the prime mementos of the frenzied activity of 40 years ago. American ex-G.I.s sometimes visit, walk those familiar streets, stay the night. But the atmosphere cannot be re-created: the girls, the buddies, the excitement, all are gone. The old soldiers take solace in memory, and in the wonderful glow of victory.

—By George J. Church.

Reported by Arthur White/London



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 1, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR SITUATION ROOM PERSONNEL

FROM: KIM WHITE  
Speechwriting Office

REGARDING: Speeches to Normandy Advance Office

Attached are two drafts of the President's remarks in Normandy. They should be sent to GREY TERRY at the Advance Office in Normandy, France. This is not urgent, but it is important and if they get it by tomorrow around noon that should be fine.

KIM

KW

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

April 19, 1984

MEMORANDUM TO BEN ELLIOTT  
KIM TIMMONS

FROM:

BILL MARTIN *Bill*

SUBJECT:

Annotated Agenda for the  
Trip to Europe

The President has approved the European  
Annotated Agenda.

Thank you for all your help in laying out  
these basic guidelines.

UNCLASSIFIED WITH  
SECRET ATTACHMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Kim W

Draft No. 4

The President's Normandy Speech  
June 6, 1984

(NOTE: The Speech will be given according to current planning at Pointe du Hoc. This is a dramatic location on a point of land surrounded by steep cliffs. The German defensive point was captured after the cliffs were scaled by US Army Rangers. There are no graves or cemeteries within view. The land at Pointe du Hoc [like the land at the American Cemetery in Normandy some 10 miles away] has been ceded by the Government of France to the United States.)

Mr. President, Honored Guests,

The cliffs which fall away to this often rough sea witnessed extraordinary heroism. Forty years ago -- as part of a great Allied effort -- brave American Rangers scaled these heights under fire. This ceremony and this place honors them.

The Rangers who fought their way up these cliffs set an example for us all. In our lives -- and in relations among states -- we all face difficult obstacles.

For forty years, we -- the free nations of the world -- have met and surmounted the obstacles in our path. The challenge before us is to continue.

N.B. Capsule biographies/anecdotes of Rangers who died at Pointe du Hoc can be inserted if research shows such would add to the impact of the speech.

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

By NARA RR Date 2/20/97

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

This sacred site symbolizes both the tragedy of war and the hope of mankind. Out of the terrible war of four decades ago we have constructed prosperous democracies and a robust alliance of free nations. These accomplishments, as well as the cross that marks this spot, are lasting memorials to the dedication and spirit of the men who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom.

The Normandy landings were a cooperative venture unparalleled in military history. Men and women from many nations marched shoulder to shoulder in defense of freedom. Near here are cemeteries, hallowed places where lie the remains of those who fought for noble principles.

Out of the terrible war came a determination to create a better world. Adversaries were reconciled, democracy was renewed, war-torn societies were rebuilt.

The Rangers who died here sought no territories. They sought not to conquer but to liberate. The only territories the United States acquired on the continent of Europe as a result of World War II were a few quiet plots consecrated as cemeteries or as memorials like this to the brave Americans who fought for freedom. This land, on which we stand, has been ceded in perpetuity to the United States by France.

The brave fighters who gave their lives in World War II were protecting noble values and ideals: freedom and democracy. The struggle for these values did not end with

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-3-

victory in that war. The need to defend these ideals -- and our liberties -- is the challenge we face today.

The protection of our values, the defense of liberty, is the challenge we face.

The troops who came ashore in Normandy marked the beginning of a U.S. commitment to the security of Europe. Through our Alliance Treaty undertakings and with the presence of 300,000 American forces here, we participate in the security of Europe, which is part of our own security.

This commitment -- this American pledge -- will remain as long as the need exists. Our experience in two wars in Europe in this century teaches that it is better to be prepared and present -- to prevent a war -- than to cross the Atlantic to fight uphill for liberty after war has broken out.

In both World War I and II our country tried to remain outside the European conflict. Twice we had to come to help our friends and defend our common values. Isolationism was no protection. It was not then and it is not now. The future of the United States is irrevocably linked to the well-being of our friends in Europe and the Pacific. That is why we choose to stand with our friends in defense of liberty.

That defense provides the freedom for our economic system. Free men and women, making their own decisions on where to live and what their lives will be, are the basis of our economy. We are recovering from a world recession.

Tomorrow in London the leaders of the industrial democracies

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

will meet to discuss how better we can bring prosperity to all our peoples. We will face our task strengthened by the memory of the heroes -- and true values -- we honor here today.

It is fitting here to remember also the great sacrifices made by the Soviet Union during World War II. The terrible loss of 20 million lives there tells all the world the necessity of avoiding another war.

### Post-War Cooperation

The nations which emerged from the ashes of war faced the challenge of making a new beginning.

-- There were lives to be rebuilt and communities to be reconstructed.

-- There were governments to be returned to the people and nations to be reborn.

-- Above all, there was a new peace to be assured.

This daunting set of challenges required new forms of cooperation.

This new cooperation included the nations represented by the forces which landed in Normandy. But the cooperation also embraced -- as it does today -- former adversaries both here and in Asia. Without the contribution of all these nations, a just, prosperous and secure democratic community of nations would not have been possible.

The virtues represented by those who fell here were fundamental to the new order which emerged from the war. These

virtues inspired that most unselfish act in history, the Marshall Plan. The assistance offered under that Plan made possible the reconstruction of Europe.

The new economic life fostered by the Marshall Plan paved the way to a better standard of living in the countries of Europe.

The ideals behind the Marshall Plan gave life to the idea of the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Community.

The North Atlantic Alliance to this day provides the shield behind which western civilization continues to flourish. Without the Alliance there would be no guarantee of continued peace and freedom. Because of the Alliance, democracy and political stability, the ultimate foundations of peace, are alive and well on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Atlantic Alliance provides for the defense of Europe. The deterrence which we maintain in concert with our Allies protects us all. At the same time, we share the common goal of eliminating the weapons of war, particularly weapons of great devastation. It is for that reason that we, in consultation with our Allies, have proposed genuine and significant reductions in the numbers of nuclear weapons which both sides possess as well as doing away with chemical weapons, as well as reducing -- in a mutual and balanced way -- the conventional forces facing each other in Europe.

These arms control negotiations are aimed at creating a more stable world and reducing the threat of war. Indeed, with the pace of technological progress wars have become more

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-6-

destructive over the centuries. Yet, with cooperation and honest effort, countries can set aside the causes of war.

As reflected in the Alliance, the rivalries which bedeviled Western Europe for centuries have been interred. In their place we have erected a unique system of economic, political and security cooperation which embraces the democracies of Western Europe and North America. The American security guarantee remains indispensable to the continued freedom and independence of the European democracies, just as the strength and freedom of our European Allies is vital to the future of our own Republic.

The destruction of World War II left Europe weakened in the face of a Soviet Union. We saw threatening Soviet actions in Berlin, in Eastern Europe, and even as far away as Korea.

In response, men of vision on both sides of the Atlantic -- and in the Pacific -- produced a new framework of peacetime cooperation. Four decades later we find that peacetime cooperation has been successful. We believe that can continue. We believe it will continue.

There is a lesson in the events we honor here and the organization of the world which grew out of the war. Come to Normandy and see the sacrifice made. Visit Europe and North America and see the freedoms which exist. Visit Berlin or Chicago or Tokyo and see what free people can accomplish.

Walk in the cemeteries of Normandy -- in all the cemeteries -- both those of the then adversaries and of the

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-7-

Allies. Honor the dead on both sides. Let the visitor who comes as we do today be rededicated to maintain freedom and peace -- and honor the memory of those who gave their all for our liberty.

Never forget what they sacrificed -- and why. The most fitting memorial we can build to those who gave their lives for peace is a world dedicated to peace. Working together, we can bring about such a world.

Drafted:EUR:JHKelly  
4/30/84 632-1566

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# Pointe du Hoc

Omaha Beach

Father Lacy - Chaplain - priest  
Lt. V - still comes to reunion

What does it look like?

GORANSON - almost half killed  
almost everyone wounded in  
C company

What's the order of events in the program?

Can see Utah beach  
Omaha behind curve of  
Texas battleship hit shore at 3rd  
round  
12 miles out

Who else is there?

Who's on the program?

one of the greatest people there was

It took a team effort -

James Eichner - Comm. officer  
Austin, TX

purchased  
signal lamp in England  
as souvenir  
used to draw fire when radios  
were out of order  
senior officer

worked all his life for ATT  
retired now in Austin, Texas  
(not going back)

Ken Lowell - 1st Sgt. of D Company - but Comp. commander of 2 platoon  
w/  
Lt. Kerchner (officers lost before they actually)

[all Americans except 4 British w/ fire ladders? British boats bunting them over]

Ted Lapees - attorney - amputee - goalie for Dartmouth College  
stopped on foot run - last leg.

Amos B Potts - was photographer of another infantry division 2 of 5 - his unit killed  
worked in Cinlantic - worked rest of life for Fed. Gov. - he was wounded in war  
- D.C. area

Elmer Vermeer - Iowa  
2nd Battalion  
senior sergeant  
Lt. Col. of Iowa several times  
past President  
West on D-Day

William Elrod Petty  
Carmel, NY  
(engaged in piece fire fights)  
Company F - brother co to Co. D of Ranger  
BAR 76  
Gunner  
1st Lt  
Carmel

Clearpool Camp - Camp for ghetto children  
Carmel NY  
10512  
(914) 225-8226  
Bible country - has been there  
for many  
Southern boy going into Rangers, divorced w/ 2 sons

(212) 683-9692 (NY office #)  
Pres. 65-67.

Bill Brady - Pres. President of the Ranger Battalions Association  
~~Dutch Dixon, Texas~~ Dickinson, Texas  
reauthorized  
~~1st Battalion~~ 1st Battalion  
(6 Battalions)

Bill Petty - taking with him son of Carl Bombardier  
Abington, Mass

Times of the  
13th article  
95F  
Lindomell  
Sgt, taken  
found suspicious/deep  
rendered inoperable  
S. H. GREEN'S TAMP  
Point de la Piece  
knows  
people  
in detail

Bill Greitz  
repairs elec. equip. - disabled  
Woodbury, New Jersey

Albert Hepler  
Ralph Croisison  
Securityville, Ill  
2nd Bat - C Company  
(312) - EM 70369

Robert Fruhling -  
widower/difficulty since  
D. Company  
(305) 685-6475

Sidney Salomon - 2nd Battalion - C Co  
ret. sales rep. for

- Harvey Koching  
Elec. worker on  
at well indoors  
- John Keating - ret. customs  
Weymouth, Mass  
officer

Theodore Lapaine

Ted Lapres - Marge New Jersey  
attorney

Francis Coughlin - Orlando  
(205) 277-6910

5th Battalion  
(didn't land at point)

#1

Thomas D. Howie

MAJ

0-261582

116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division

Virginia

KIA 17 July 1944

Plot G Row 14 Grave 12

Normandy American Cemetery (Omaha)

Julie (Peqqy)  
This is the officer I spoke to  
you about for possible inclusion in  
the remarks at Omaha.  
Pete.

Julie Case Rm 111 1/2  
E&B

Thomas Dry Howie "The Major of St. Lo"  
(1908 - 1944)

Biographical Data:

- Born: April 12, 1908, Abbeville, South Carolina
- Parents: Mr. and Mrs. T. V. Howie
- Wife: Elizabeth Payne Howie, 319 Vine Street,  
Staunton, Virginia 24401  
(still living)
- Education: Abbeville High School, 1925  
The Citadel, 1929 (President of Class)  
Football, boxing and Rhodes scholar  
candidate
- Civilian occupation: Teacher (English Literature)  
and coach (football and boxing)  
at Staunton Military Academy
- Military: Second Lieutenant, 116th Infantry,  
Virginia National Guard when federalized  
in 1940  
  
Operations officer (S-3) for 116th on  
D-Day  
  
Appointed commander 3rd Battalion, 116th  
in July 1944.  
  
Killed in action near St. Lo, France,  
July 17, 1944.
- Decorations: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart,  
Croix de Guerre with Palm, French  
Legion of Honor.

## Remarks

Major Tom Howie came from Staunton, Virginia. He commanded the National Guard company from his town, and only days before he died he rose to command a battalion of the 116th Infantry Regiment. History and his own abilities brought him here to France where he still lies. He was killed by a mortar shell on July 17, 1944 as he prepared to lead his battalion into St. Lo. He took St. Lo, nonetheless. His men carried Tom Howie on a litter and laid him on the rubble of St. Croix church. Today in "Howie Square" of St. Lo and in this cemetery his sacrifice is permanent. We can honor his life by staying strong to keep the peace, or we can erase his sacrifice by again allowing aggression to grow strong.

Tom Howie was the finest his generation could offer. Tempered by the depression and then by the war he and his contemporaries had, in that old-fashioned word, "character." We owe them a priceless debt, for they saved our freedoms. We cannot repay them; we can only rededicate ourselves to those eternal virtues which they embodied—courage and perseverance and sacrifice.

# Body of Major Slain in St. Lo Battle Leads His Troops Into Fallen Town

## Massive American Assault by Tanks and Infantry Throws Germans Out After Eight-Day Hard-Fought Siege

By HAROLD DENNY

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WITH AMERICAN FORCES, in Normandy, July 18—St. Lo fell this evening before a massive American assault—and one battalion's entry was led by the body of its major, who had died in the assault.

Tonight our men in tanks, armored cars and jeeps, and in small infantry groups afoot, are combing through the town's rubble-strewn streets and wrecked buildings, wiping out the last remnants of resistance. Meanwhile, the Germans are heavily shelling the town and its approaches from high ground to the east, west and south, which they still hold. Our artillery is replying thunderously.

The Germans had largely evacuated the town during yesterday and last night, but, according to their custom, they had left isolated snipers and machine-gun posts at good defensive points within the town. They had also stationed strong forces armed with machine guns, machine pistols and mortars in positions that our men had to smash up before they could occupy the city.

The Germans had also brought up additional artillery in the past few days and had their guns "zeroed in" all along the roads over which our troops had to pass. They fired heavily on us all day and were still going it strong tonight. It is obvious that the Germans, having held this key bastion of their defensive line on this front until they could no longer afford their heavy casualties, intend to make the town as uncomfortable as possible for our forces until they have been driven off the hills.

### End of Three-Week Campaign

But today brought a triumphant end to the campaign to take this obscure but militarily vital provincial town, the capital of the Department of La Manche, which has gone on for three hard weeks. The past four days and nights have been filled with incessant, desper-

"We're in now and they'll never get us out."

Following the vanguard of fighting troops came ambulances, medical corpemen and jeeps loaded with military police, ready to take over policing and traffic control as soon as we were in the town, and a civil-affairs team. A civil-affairs team composed of experts in many fields goes into each place that we take and immediately begins helping the town to get back to normal. These civil-affairs administrators are not supposed to go in with the first wave, but this team virtually did.

### Civil Affairs Chief Kills German

St. Lo's civil-affairs team was commanded by a colonel from Philadelphia. He did not wait for his place in the procession but went in with the attacking troops. At the entrance to the town, a German stepped out and pointed a gun at him. The colonel whipped out his pistol and shot him dead.

The task force emerged from its forest rendezvous and moved boldly onto the main road from Isigny, which enters St. Lo from the northeast. More troops crouched in ditches and foxholes at either side of the road, ready to come in afterward and consolidate. The road winds in repeated "S" turns just before it enters the town, so we could not see what was happening at the head of the column. There was heavy shell-fire at the edge of the town, however, and we could hear machine guns. Then we heard the fire of our tanks.

Word came back that a strong force of German grenadiers was in the wooded hills just south of the entrance to the town, holding up our advance with automatic weapons and mortars. Our tanks and infantry had to go in and clean them out before the column could go farther. This took some time; then the column moved ahead again. It must have been about 5:30 then and our vanguard was getting well into the town.

### Other Troops Enter Town

While the task force was attacking

and to make the town as uncomfortable as possible for our forces until they have been driven off the hills.

### End of Three-Week Campaign

But today brought a triumphant end to the campaign to take this obscure but militarily vital provincial town, the capital of the Department of La Manche, which has gone on for three hard weeks. The past four days and nights have been filled with incessant, desperate fighting at the very gates of the town. The victory was won, furthermore, by troops who had been fighting without respite for weeks. But no one would have guessed that to see the confidence and verve with which they moved up those shell-blasted paths today.

The actual capture of the town was accomplished at 6 P. M. by a task force of tanks, infantry, reconnaissance vehicles and special arms organized with the purpose of smashing the way into the town once and for all against whatever resistance might be offered. The first entrance into the town in any force, however, was made at 10 A. M. by troops of a battalion that, it is now permissible to say, had been cut off by the Germans for thirty-six hours after it had gone to the relief of another battalion that had been isolated for two days.

This battalion had written one of the brightest of the many heroic chapters of this campaign and its commander, a major who may not yet be identified, had led it with conspicuous gallantry until his death in action. Only two days ago I was visiting him in his command post in a ditch, and he was talking of this town, toward which he had been leading troops.

### Major Honored in Death

But the major, after all, did not lose the honor of entering the town for which he had given his life. His body, accompanied by a chaplain, was taken to a dressing station and there it was placed in an ambulance by the order of the commander of the troops in that immediate sector. The ambulance was put in the place of honor at the head of a non-combatant section of the task force and, after the tanks and infantry had blazed a path, the major's body was escorted into the town, flanked by a guard of honor in armored cars.

After the decision that no more delay in the capture of the town could be brooked, preparations for a strong task force were made. This afternoon it assembled in the woods a few miles north of St. Lô under the command of a general who informed his forces that they were going to take the town if they had to go through all hell to get it. He was in the forefront of the battle all day and, when I saw him last, he had been slightly wounded in the arm. He had it bandaged where he stood, however, and was staying at a heavily shelled turn in the road at the town's entrance, urging his men to get through that shellfire quickly.

force of German grenadiers was in the wooded hills just south of the entrance to the town, holding up our advance with automatic weapons and mortars. Our tanks and infantry had to go in and clean them out before the column could go farther. This took some time; then the column moved ahead again. It must have been about 5:30 then and our vanguard was getting well into the town.

### Other Troops Enter Town

While the task force was staging its cavalcade the troops who had been steadily battling to the city from the east along the Bayeux and lesser roads and paths moved on into the city. They had had some of the hardest fighting that our men had endured since D-day and they had fought their way out of great perils. Eminent among their adventures was that of the two lost battalions.

One of these, commanded by Major Sidney V. Bingham of Dallas, Tex., worked its way to the most forward position at the hamlet of La Madel'ne, on the Bayeaux road, last Saturday. The front there was extremely fluid. There were no real battle lines, but the troops fought their way ahead wherever they could and held on. The enemy closed in behind Major Bingham's men and ceaselessly bombarded them. He held on. He had a field radio, with which he communicated with his regiment—cautiously, because the Germans could listen in.

Gradually his battalion used up its food and ammunition and there were wounded to be cared for. The radio's battery failed and he was silent. The day before yesterday, another battalion of the same regiment fought its way to Major Bingham's, taking in supplies. But the Germans closed in behind this battalion also so both battalions were isolated. Last night, troops further back tried to run in supplies by armored cars, but they could not make it. Later, combat patrols took food and munitions in and stayed with the men to help them fight. Blood plasma for the wounded was dropped by planes.

For all their sufferings the men of these battalions had enough drive left to enable them to attack at 4 A. M. today and they got to the city. But early in the attack one major was killed—the major whose body was borne in state into St. Lô this evening.



New York Times, July 20, 1944

### THE MAJOR ENTERS ST. LO

The major's name is not yet known. Last Sunday he led his battalion up the Bayeux road to a hamlet called La Madeleine, in front of St. Lo. There he reinforced another gallant officer, Maj. Sidney V. Bingham of Dallas, Tex., and there both battalions found themselves surrounded. All Sunday night, all day Monday and half of Tuesday they lay exposed to the enemy artillery. A few men, replacements unused to fire, fell back a little. A sergeant talked to them. After that they were as good as the others. On Tuesday, with Major Bingham and the unnamed major at their head, they proceeded toward St. Lo, apparently with many Germans still behind them and plenty along the way. Like all such advances in Normandy, this was a slow and deadly walk. Men were wounded and men died. The walk continued. Late in the afternoon a strong task force, commanded by a general with a bandaged arm, barged in on the connecting road from Isigny and finished the job. St. Lo was taken.

That same evening the unnamed major rode into St. Lo. He rode in state, with armored cars acting as his guard of honor. He rode like the Cid in his last battle, though no flags accompanied him on his journey and no bugles blew for him. Behind him tramped what was left of his battalion, boys turned into veterans, veterans with a score to settle. For the major, thus achieving his purpose, thus carrying out his orders, thus leaving to those who loved him a heritage of pride that will outlast their grief—the major lay in an ambulance, at the head of his command, his face covered, dead.

# THOMAS D. HOWIE 'MAJOR OF ST. LO'

## Army Reveals the Identity of Officer Whose Body Was Taken Into Captured Town

WITH 116TH INFANTRY REGIMENT in France, July 23 (Delayed UP)—They passed out Presidential citations today to officers and doughboys who cracked St. LO, the eastern hinge of the German battleline, and it was a sad ceremony to many because the "Major of St. LO" was not alive to receive his.

The "Major of St. LO" was Thomas D. Howie of Staunton, Va. He was killed July 17, the day before the city fell, after his troops broke through the German wall to relieve another battalion of this regiment that had been encircled on the outskirts.

Today the major lies in honor with other officers and men in the Twenty-ninth Division's cemetery—but on the day St. LO was taken the dead major was carried through the streets in state in an ambulance and his flag-draped body was placed on a pile of rubble beside the shell-wrecked church of Ste. Croix. The storming force passed in review through an artillery barrage thrown by the withdrawing Germans.

The wiry, muscular officer, a native of Abbeville, S. C., was popular with all ranks in the division from the lowest private to the commanding officer, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gerhardt, who personally ordered Major Howie's body taken into St. LO by the combat force as a gesture honoring him and his battalion. By taking the high ground dominating the approaches to the city, his men sealed its fall.

### Gave Up Headquarters Post

"He had given up an operations post at regimental headquarters to take over the battalion only five days before," said Capt. Charles B. Cawthon of Murfreesboro, Tenn., executive officer of the cut-off battalion to whose relief Major Howie and his troops came after they had been almost three days with no fresh rations or ammunition supplies.

Farther down the road was camped Major Howie's battalion, now under command of 25-year-old Capt. William H. Funtenney of Phoenix, Ariz., formerly his executive officer.

Captain Funtenney, a tall, blond former cattle rancher, cleared his voice twice as he told what happened in the battalion command post among the hedgerows.

"We had just finished meeting the company commanders to wind

The dead major was carried through the streets in state in an ambulance and his flag-draped body was placed on a pile of rubble beside the shell-wrecked church of St. Croix. The storming force passed in review through an artillery barrage thrown by the withdrawing Germans.

The wiry, muscular officer, a native of Abbeville, S. C., was popular with all ranks in the division from the lowest private to the commanding officer, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gerhardt, who personally ordered Major Howie's body taken into St. Lo by the combat force as a gesture honoring him and his battalion. By taking the high ground dominating the approaches to the city, his men sealed its fall.

#### Gave Up Headquarters Post

"He had given up an operations post at regimental headquarters to take over the battalion only five days before," said Capt. Charles B. Cawthon of Murfreesboro, Tenn., executive officer of the cut-off battalion to whose relief Major Howie and his troops came after they had been almost three days with no fresh rations or ammunition supplies.

Farther down the road was camped Major Howie's battalion, now under command of 25-year-old Capt. William H. Puntanney of Phoenix, Ariz., formerly his executive officer.

Captain Puntanney, a tall, blond former cattle rancher, cleared his voice twice as he told what happened in the battalion command post among the hedgerows.

"We had just finished meeting the company commanders to wind up our attack plans," he said. "They had been dismissed and before they could get back to their companies the Germans began dropping a mortar barrage around our ears."

"Before taking cover in one of two foxholes we were using, Major Howie turned to take a last look to be sure all his men had their heads down," continued Captain Puntanney.

#### Killed by Mortar Shell

"Without warning one of their mortar shells hit a few yards away and exploded. A fragment struck the major in the back and apparently pierced his lung. 'My God, I am hit,' he murmured, and I saw he was bleeding at the mouth. As he fell I caught him.

"I called a medic, but nothing could be done. He was dead in two minutes. Before we jumped off that morning he had told some division officers: 'See you in St. Lo.' General Gerhardt knew that if he lived he would have wanted to be one of the first in the city—and he saw that he had his wish."

Four battalion headquarters men in an adjoining foxhole were slightly injured by the burst that killed the major, but all insisted on sticking to the job.

The obituary of Major Howie was given by T/4 Clarence Gerolik of 1333 Vign Avenue, the Bronx, who said: "Everyone of us enlisted men looked up to him and admired him as a leader. But at the same time



Tom Howie, as captain

dressed his wound he merely put his cane on his other arm and walked away. Later, however, he was evacuated.

Col. Alfred V. Ednie, who had replaced Colonel Ordway as commander of the 115th this day, held a prominent role in personally directing and dispersing troops and vehicles in St. Lô, and in organizing the city's defense.

As if to stake its claim in the capture of the city, the 29th raised its Divisional colors over St. Lô's heaping ruins while the battle was still in progress. This was in accordance with General Gerhardt's order. At the heavily bombarded main square of the city, dubbed Mortar Corner by task force troops, Col. Edward H. McDaniel, Division chief of staff, gave a Blue-and-Gray flag to S/Sgt. Gerald Davis, of the 115th's 1st Battalion headquarters. Sergeant Davis climbed the second floor of the Café Malherbe and hung the flag from a window, but a German anti-tank shell crashed nearby, and the concussion ripped down the flag. It was hung up a second time, however, and remained untouched.

Action of the task force was for the most part confined to mopping up. There was little organized resistance in St. Lô, and although enemy artillery fire was heavy, little disorganized groups were giving

up all over the city. By 5:30 P.M. all troops and tanks were in position and all organized resistance had been overcome.

The fall of St. Lô, ranking in strategical importance with that of Cherbourg, was reported by General Gerhardt to Maj. Gen. Charles H. Corlett, XIX Corps commander in a formal and proud announcement:

I have the honor to announce to the Corps Commander that Task Force C of the 29th Division has secured the city of St. Lô after forty-three days of continual combat from the beaches to St. Lô. 29 Let's Go!

Offensive action east of St. Lô on July 18 was confined to the other two battalions of the 115th, since both the 116th and 175th remained in defensive positions. The 2d Battalion, resuming its attack after its sudden advance of the previous evening, headed southwest from la Planche toward Haras, a suburb of St. Lô. It was stopped after approximately seven hundred yards by heavy machine-gun and mortar fire, and shortly thereafter was ordered to change direction and advance due south to Ste. Croix-de-St. Lô. The battalion secured this objective by 7:00 P.M., cutting the eastern highway exit of the city.

The 3d Battalion moved southwest from the Martinville Ridge toward the highway, and by 4:00 in the afternoon I Company had reached the race track on the eastern edge of St. Lô.

While the men of 115th's K and L Companies, deployed along the hedgerows off the St. Lô-Bayeux road, were eating their supper of C rations, a group of approximately thirty German paratroopers was observed walking down the highway toward St. Lô, apparently unaware of the presence of the American troops. In a sudden quickening of activity within the hedgerows, a heavy .30 caliber machine gun was put in position and laid to cover the road. Then T/Sgt. Ambers Glidewell, a section leader of M Company, together with a German speaking member of K Company, hurried up to the hedge and called on the paratroopers to give up without a fight. Someone who appeared to be the leader of the group shouted back: "Surrender—no! *You* surrender! We have you *surrounded!*" As he said this he sent a burst of fire from his machine pistol at Sergeant Glidewell, narrowly missing him. Immediately the heavy machine gun opened up with long bursts of fire that left approximately a third of the group casualties, while the remainder darted off the road and disappeared in the hedgerows.

I  
day  
thr  
the  
mu  
CPs  
cou  
kep  
com  
Bois  
E  
talic  
mun  
man  
west  
artik  
the  
John  
Batta  
wire  
going  
Is it  
"E  
callir  
wire:  
Ange  
... I  
Th  
loose  
made  
into  
(the  
talion  
fore c  
1st B  
sent, a  
  
Ab  
square  
with  
pile o  
placed  
coffin  
back e  
city fe  
The  
set out  
ward t  
Madel  
officers

During the night of July 18, and the following day, the enemy made repeated but futile counter-thrusts at St. Lô, and kept his harassing artillery on the city. The heavy shelling disrupted all wire communication, and as radios linked to the rear infantry CPs were not working, contact with the rear was by courier. T/5 Ernest L. Martin, a CP messenger, was kept running the gantlet of the Isigny Road to keep communication with the Division headquarters in the Bois de Bretel.

During the morning of July 19, when the 1st Battalion was with absolutely no wire or radio communication to the rear, a large concentration of German infantry was reported moving toward the southwest section of the city. But there was no prospect of artillery support with the radios out. Then, at almost the same moment that this report was made, Pfc. John C. Henderson, switchboard operator at the Battalion CP, called to Major Johns: "Major, the wiremen say they found a wire to the rear, and they're going to splice us in. They don't know where it goes. Is it OK?"

"Hell yes," the major said. Then Henderson was calling the unknown party at the other end of the wire: "Hello, this is Lagoon Red, who are you? . . . Angel? Who's Angel? . . . You say you're artillery! . . . 155s! . . . Say Major! They're 155s!"

Thus, in this caprice of chance, in this finding of a loose, broken wire, the necessary artillery support was made available to repel what could have developed into a serious counterattack against St. Lô. Angel (the code name for the 967th Field Artillery Battalion) had no direct contact with Lagoon Red before or since that day, but it is remembered in the 1st Battalion as St. Lô's temporary guardian, heaven sent, at a time of great uncertainty.

#### THE MAJOR OF ST. LÔ

About 7:30 A.M. on July 19 in the city's main square, by the Church of Notre Dame, a coffin draped with an American flag was carried to the top of a pile of stone from the church's shattered wall and placed there reverently by a soldier detail. In the coffin lay the body of Major Howie, who had died back on the Martinville Ridge the day before the city fell.

The morning of his death, before the battalion had set out on its silent dawn attack that carried it forward to contact with the isolated 2d Battalion at la Madeleine, Major Howie had taken his leave of some officers with the casual remark, "See you in St. Lô!"



*The body of Major Tom Howie, draped with flag, lies in state in the St. Lô square*

Although it had been a casual remark it had sprung from a soldier's heart that had waited in long anticipation of the great day when the city would fall, when the campaign would be over, when the Division would come out of the line. The longing of every soldier in the St. Lô hedgerows was reflected in this carefree parting salutation, for every soldier knew that St. Lô was the objective.

"See you in St. Lô" was an aggressive, fighting way to say "so long," and when Major Howie died General Gerhardt determined that the pledge implied in the major's words would be fulfilled. As the armored column of Task Force C swept into St. Lô, Major Howie rode with it. An ambulance bore his body into the city, where it now lay in state. The story of this incident, which was to become one of the dramatic classics of the war, was seized upon by war correspondents and reported in the press throughout America. Because of the restrictions of censor-

ship at that time Major Howie's name was withheld, and he became simply "The Major of St. Lô."

*The New York Times*, in an editorial on the fall of St. Lô concluded:

That same evening the unnamed major rode into St. Lô. He rode in state, with armored cars acting as his guard of honor. He rode like the Cid in his last battle, though no flags accompanied him on his journey and no bugles blew for him. Behind him tramped what was left of his battalion, boys turned into veterans, veterans with a score to settle. For the major, thus achieving his purpose, thus carrying out his orders, thus leaving to those who loved him a heritage of pride that will outlast their grief—the Major lay in an ambulance at the head of his command, his face covered, dead.

The fact that Major Howie's battalion did not follow behind the column in which their commander rode detracted in no way from the editorial tribute, just as the line in the poem which told of the major's death by sniper fire did not lessen the nobility of its tone. Widely read by the men of the Division was Joseph Auslander's measured eulogy, "Incident at St. Lô," which first appeared in *Life*. It immortalized the battle in which they fought, and raised its story to poetic level:

They rode him propped straight and proud and tall  
Through St. Lô's gates. . . . He told the lads he led  
That they would be the first at St. Lô's fall—  
But that was yesterday . . . and he was dead;  
Some sniper put a bullet through his head,  
And he slumped in a meadow near a wall;  
And there was nothing further to be said;  
Nothing to say, nothing to say at all.

Ride soldier in your dusty, dizzy jeep,  
Grandier than Caesar's chariot, O ride  
Into the town they took for you to keep,  
Dead captain of their glory and their pride!  
Ride through our hearts forever, through our tears,  
More splendid than the hero hedged with spears!

The Division remained in position on July 19, withdrawing the 116th from the line in the morning, its sector being taken over by the 115th's 2d Battalion. Patrols of the 113th Cavalry Squadron probed the southern exit roads of St. Lô during the day to discover that the enemy had made but a limited withdrawal. On high ground one thousand yards south of the town the Germans were firmly en-

trenched ready to defend the observation they held over the city.

The enemy continued to place heavy artillery fire on St. Lô throughout the day, dropping the most intense concentrations in the morning between 9:30 and 10:00. The 1st Battalion CP, which had set up in a store near the main crossroads, was forced to move because of the heavy shelling. The new location of the CP was a large stone mausoleum in a cemetery in the northeast section of the town, where a large stone covering of a coffin was put into use as a map table.

During the night of July 19 enemy action developed south of St. Lô but it was repulsed with small-arms, and well directed artillery fire of the 110th. A platoon of 115th's K Company, which had been ordered into St. Lô as a reserve unit, during the counterattack, was strung out along one of the city's streets when five German planes flew over the city shortly after 11:00 P.M. A stick of bombs fell into the column, resulting in heavy loss to the platoon in dead and wounded.

However, relief of the Division was in prospect. The 35th Division, which had fought through the St. Lô campaign on the 29th's right flank, commenced moving across the Vire River to take over all Blue-and-Gray positions. By 9:15 A.M. of July 20 the relief of the 175th and the 1st and 3d Battalions of the 115th had been completed and by 5:20 P.M. the 2d Battalion of the 115th had come off the line. All relieved battalions moved by foot and motor back to an assembly area in corps reserve, south of St. Clair-sur-l'Elle, into which the 116th had already closed. However the four battalions of the 29th Division's artillery remained in place and were attached to the 35th Division, not to be relieved until the evening of July 27 when it rejoined the 29th on the Division's return to the front.

This relief marked the first time in forty-five days that the 29th as a division had been out of contact with the enemy. Since the Omaha Beach landings the Blue-and-Gray had been in front every day of the long six-week campaign. Its toll of more than seven thousand killed and wounded clearly bespeaks the bitterness of the struggle, and establishes the Battle for St. Lô as the most costly engagement in the history of the Division.

II  
fan  
lin  
onk  
of  
tua  
E  
hur  
was  
they  
Lô,  
No  
or  
the  
show  
T  
aves  
view  
train  
resta  
his  
T  
drill  
defe  
traps  
men  
the  
Batt  
area  
Jul  
now  
have  
Jul  
Jul  
that  
I feel  
again  
D  
rifle  
absc  
The  
wel  
was  
info  
like  
uns  
his

Meindl's request for part of the 275th Division, which had just arrived from Brittany and was in the Seventh Army reserve behind Panzer Lehr. The 352d Division, which had tried to hold the Vire bridges by fighting in St. Lô with too few men, mounted a counterattack but was too weak to expel the Americans. Hausser and Meindl both later blamed an announcement by the Wehrmacht on the afternoon of 18 July of the withdrawal as the stimulus that had caused the final American assault. Actually, however, they had been unable to secure additional troops and they had feared that U.S. forces west of the Vire would outflank St. Lô from the west; both commanders in reality had been forced by American pressure to pull the II Parachute Corps back.<sup>61</sup>

To maintain contact and determine the extent of the withdrawal, General Corlett instructed the 113th Cavalry Group to pass through the city. The cavalry received such a volume of anti-tank, mortar, and artillery fire 500 yards south of St. Lô that it became evident at once that the Germans had retired only to the high ground less than a mile to the south. The 352d Division counterattack launched that evening confirmed the fact that the enemy had not gone far.<sup>62</sup>

The XIX Corps completed its task

<sup>61</sup> Telecon, Hausser to Pemsel, 1950, 18 Jul, Seventh Army Tel Msgs; Seventh Army KTB (Draft) and Tel Msgs, 17 and 18 Jul; Hodgson, R-54.

<sup>62</sup> XIX Corps Memo, 19 Jul, XIX Corps G-3 Jnl and File.

on the morning of 19 July. The 29th Division finished clearing the city, and the 35th Division reported no active enemy troops in its sector.<sup>63</sup>

In capturing St. Lô the divisions had sustained the high losses that had become typical of the battle of the hedgerows. The 35th Division lost over 2,000 men; the 29th Division suffered over 3,000 casualties. On 19 July, in compliance with corps instructions, the 35th Division relieved the 29th, and General Baade deployed his troops across the entire corps front from the Vire River east to the Couvains-Calvaire road.

By the time the men of the 29th Division marched out of St. Lô on 20 July, the body of Major Howie had become a symbol. Task Force C had carried the flag-draped corpse as a battle standard into town on a jeep.<sup>64</sup> Placed on a pile of rubble before the rather plain Romanesque church of Ste. Croix and surrounded by empty, gaping houses, the body had become a shrine, a universal symbol of sacrifice. When the men of the division removed the body and departed the town, the symbol remained in St. Lô. St. Lô itself, disfigured and lifeless, had become a memorial to all who had suffered and died in the battle of the hedgerows.

<sup>63</sup> 35th Div Msg, 1019, 19 Jul, XIX Corps G-3 Jnl; Huston, *Biography of A Battalion*, pp. 23-46.

<sup>64</sup> A legend had also been born. In 1953 a roadside sign in St. Lô read: "... This martyred city [was] liberated the 26th [sic] of July 1944 by Major Howie, killed at the head of his troops. . . ."

### The American

The First Army to an end on 19 capture of St. Lô. the operations had the southern ed swampland—along St. Lô-Caumont disappointing.

Heroic exertion face, to have acco twelve divisions, t enteen days had seven miles in th Vire and little m tance east of the the distance gain newly established was less than sa Corps physically o nor Périers; the V ally possess the P and the city of S enemy artillery an than a week after Corps.<sup>1</sup>

To reach posit Caumont line, the tained approxima

<sup>1</sup> The XIX Corps did not become operational and only then did the operation begin again to 19 Jul.

to the slow costly pattern of yard-by-yard advances already so familiar.

There was little improvement on 16 July. While the 35th Division fought to retain Hill 122, the 29th Division seemed virtually paralyzed. The 115th Infantry advanced about 300 yards down the Isigny-St. Lô highway and came abreast of the 35th Division forces on Hill 122, but the regiments on the Martinville ridge could not relieve the isolated battalion.

Six days of fighting had brought the 29th close to its goal, but with considerably weakened forces. Two days earlier, 125 replacements had restored one battalion of the 116th Infantry to only 60 percent of its authorized strength; during the night of 16-17 July another battalion received 250 enlisted replacements, bringing its total strength to 420. On 16 July a battalion of the 115th had only a platoon of riflemen remaining in each rifle company. On 17 July 200 men comprised the three rifle companies of a battalion of the 175th, and most of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers had been killed or wounded. Although these were extreme cases, the other infantry battalions were also seriously depleted.<sup>44</sup>

For the final assault on St. Lô at the opportune moment, General Gerhardt turned to the supporting arms. He instructed Brig. Gen. Norman D. Cota, the assistant division commander, to form a task force of tank, reconnaissance, tank destroyer, and engineer troops. They were to be assembled in the division rear area at a location that would enable them to attack toward St. Lô from either

<sup>44</sup> 29th Div G-3 Jnl, 1335, 16 Jul, and 1256, 17 Jul.

the northeast—by way of the Isigny-St. Lô highway—or the east—down the Martinville ridge. Because Hill 122 was not yet entirely secure, General Gerhardt still expected to make his climactic drive into St. Lô from the east, but he wanted to be ready to drive from the northeast should capture of Hill 122 prove in reality to be the decisive factor in the battle for St. Lô.



On 17 July, the seventh day of attack, the 29th Division struck before dawn. Maj. Thomas D. Howie, commanding the 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry, led his men in a column of companies in a silent march toward Major Bingham's isolated unit. Suspicious Germans increased their artillery and mortar fire and played grazing machine gun fire across the slope of the Martinville ridge. Howie's men resisted the impulse to return this fire and crept forward through an early morning mist, still undetected. Several hours after daybreak, they reached Bingham's isolated force.

The regimental commander, Colonel Dwyer, had hoped that the two battalions together would be able to enter the city, but Bingham's men were exhausted. Howie informed Dwyer by telephone that they were incapable of further effort. When Dwyer asked whether Howie could move his battalion alone to the eastern edge of town, Howie replied, "Will do." Several minutes later an enemy shell killed him.

Taking command of Howie's battalion, Capt. William H. Puntenny tried to mount the attack on St. Lô along the Bérigny highway, but the Germans

threw up such a fire that the men through the day an advance. L counterattack wi from St. Lô to e Puntenny force. presence of A saved the day. and bombed the division artiller screen of fire positions.<sup>45</sup> Dis withdrew their two American ba

All efforts of Infantry, to ope and Puntenny o forward ammun supplies failed. destroyers, esco caliber machine roads about Ma debris, dead he man vehicles th tinuing enemy sible. The 17 tempted to rea attacking down but the regime and made little lief was that br the division art efficient blood men.

On the night party of about talion, 116th the isolated us 18 July, a r

<sup>45</sup> [Lt. Col. Rob April to Novemb (Maxwell Air Fom 1945), p. 118.





INFANTRYMEN HIT THE GROUND ON A STREET IN ST. LÔ

Ednie, who had come from the 30th Division to understudy the assistant division commander, took his place. Ednie's mission was to open the northeast entrance to the city for the passage of General Cota's task force. Unaware of the German withdrawal, General Gerhardt was cautious. "We may go into St. Lô," he informed the corps commander, "but we don't want anyone to get cut off in there."<sup>54</sup>

After an artillery preparation, the 115th Infantry attacked. Since Hill 122 was no longer a point of embarrassment, the regiment made good progress. At noon Colonel Ednie was hammering on

the gate. "I believe this is the time to alert that Task Force," he advised General Gerhardt. The division commander no longer doubted. "Everything's shaping up now," he informed General Cota, "so I think you'd better get moving."<sup>55</sup>

Forty minutes later General Gerhardt transmitted another order to General Cota. He wanted the body of Major Howie to accompany the first U.S. troops into town.<sup>56</sup> The act was to be not only a gesture of honor and respect to the fallen but also a visible reminder to the members of the task force of all their comrades who had given their lives in a

task not yet completed. Major Howie's body was a apt, for Howie, was the leader of a battalion only to die, representing the courage and sacrifice of the drive to the gate. The triumph was as well as to the living. Howie the fallen was the culmination

At 1500, 18 July, Force C departed the division left the division zone, and the Isigny-St. Lô halfback making right end, the task

<sup>54</sup> 29th Div G-3 Jnl, 0725 and 0901, 18 Jul.

<sup>55</sup> 29th Div G-3 Jnl, 1147 and 1149, 18 Jul.

<sup>56</sup> 29th Div G-3 Jnl, 1236, 18 Jul.



RUINS OF ST. LÔ

task not yet completed. The choice of Major Howie's body was particularly apt, for Howie, who had taken command of a battalion only three days before his death, represented the qualities of courage and sacrifice that had made the drive to the gates of St. Lô possible. The triumph belonged to the dead as well as to the living, and through Major Howie the fallen were to participate in the culmination of the effort.

At 1500, 18 July, General Cota's Task Force C departed its assembly area near the division left boundary, crossed the division zone, and began to roll down the Isigny-St. Lô highway. Like a left halfback making a wide run around right end, the task force picked up its

interference as it approached the line of scrimmage—the 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry, which was closest to the goal. Silencing an antitank gun just outside the town, passing through harassing artillery and scattered rifle fire, and breaking through a roadblock, the task force entered the northeast portion of St. Lô at 1800 of the eighth day of the battle. Quickly seizing a square near the cemetery and organizing it as a base of operations, Task Force C moved rapidly through the rubble-choked streets to points of importance. Small groups occupied key road junctions, squares, and bridges. One hour after the task force entered the town it was apparent that only scattered German

BACKGROUND MATERIAL CHECKLIST

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Speechwriter for direction/focus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledgements, make-up of group, theme of event, background on head of group, other speakers, logo, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Previous RR and past presidential statements
- \_\_\_\_\_ News subject file material
- \_\_\_\_\_ CQ
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Affairs Office of Relevant Agency
- \_\_\_\_\_ Books
- \_\_\_\_\_ Encyclopedia Brittanica/Americana
- \_\_\_\_\_ Current Bio
- \_\_\_\_\_ Quotes on subject, place, state, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ NYT Index, periodical's indexes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Economic Indicators, Budget, Economic Report to Pres.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Project Officer and Advance person for direction/focus
- \_\_\_\_\_ World Almanac/American Almanac of Politics, Politics in America, CQ political backgrounders
- \_\_\_\_\_ Encyclopedia of Associations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Affairs Office of Relevant Private Organizations
- \_\_\_\_\_ DOS Background Notes and/or State Book Series
- \_\_\_\_\_ "This Day in History"
- \_\_\_\_\_ Heroes, i.e., women entrepreneurs for women's speeches, etc.

ask Phil Rivers;

- Did D-Day forces carry any kind of flag or banner or "colors" of any kind?

- Did Poles throw themselves between enemy; the rest of Europe as invasion took hold? - That is, are we referring to the Falaise Pocket?

Normandy American Cemetery

a Parisian man comes out every year

in closing: So as we stand here to honor those who died

So as we stand here together, united by the spirit that brings a Torchmen here every year on June 6,

I join Pres. Mitterrand.

(Tim Cogle) tie in

we invited the French to the ceremony

- those who died during the invasion

# Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial



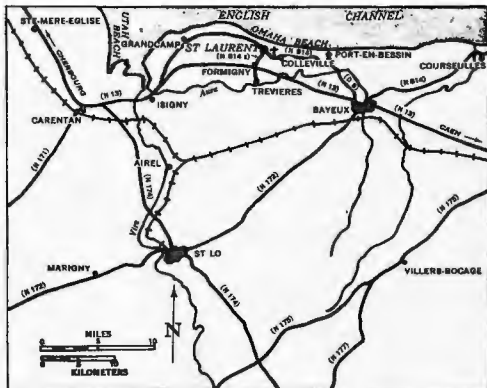
American Battle Monuments Commission

1975



*Chapel Interior*

# Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial



## LOCATION

The Normandy American Cemetery, open to the public daily during daylight hours, is situated on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach and the English Channel just east of St. Laurent-sur-mer, north of Colleville, and 10 miles northwest of Bayeux, Calvados. Travel time by train to Bayeux from the Gare St. Lazare station in Paris is two to four hours. Although rail service between Paris and Bayeux is somewhat infrequent, usually there is at least one express train each way daily. Taxi service is available from the Bayeux Station to the cemetery. To travel to the cemetery from Paris by automobile, it is suggested that one take the Autoroute

de l'Ouest (toll highway) to the exit for Evreux, then proceed via Highway N-13 through Bayeux to Formigny. At the N-814e intersection in Formigny, one should turn right and continue on through St. Laurent-sur-mer to the cemetery. The road distance from Paris to the cemetery is 166 miles/268 kilometers. Road distances to the cemetery from some of the other cities in France are: Le Havre—94 miles/152 km., Caen—29 miles/46 km., Rouen—110 miles/177 km., and Cherbourg—50 miles/81 km. Adequate hotel accommodations are available in Caen and Bayeux and to a somewhat lesser extent in the picturesque fishing village of Port-en-Bessin and other nearby shore resorts.





## HISTORY

Many months of planning and preparation preceded the June 6, 1944 D-Day landings in Normandy. Beginning in March 1944, Allied air forces disrupted transportation between the Seine and Loire Rivers and conducted strategic air bombardment deep into enemy territory in an attempt to keep the German air force occupied and on the defensive and to isolate the landing areas.

On 6 June 1944 during the early morning hours of darkness, three airborne divisions (the British 6th and the US 82d and 101st) were dropped to the rear of the beach areas to cover deployment of the seaborne assault forces. Simultaneously, allied naval forces swept the English Channel of mines and preceded the assault vessels to the landing areas. At 6:30 AM, under cover of intense naval and air bombardment, six US, British and Canadian divisions began landing on Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches in what was to be the greatest amphibious assault of recorded history.

The US 4th Division landed at Utah Beach and pushed rapidly inland to join the airborne divisions. The early success and extraordinarily light casualties on Utah Beach contrasted sharply with the difficulties of the US 1st and 29th Divisions on Omaha Beach to the east, where the enemy was resisting with every device and weapon at his disposal. Its terrain alone was a major obstacle. Instead of sloping gently from the high ground to the rear, the beach area terminated in precipitous steep sandy bluffs. Troops had to cross an open area varying in width from a few yards at each end to about 200 yards in the center, and then attack up the steep bluffs to the plateau where the Normandy American Cemetery now stands. The only concealment available was patches of tall marsh grass. Fighting was bitter and casualties heavy. Nevertheless, the US 1st Division took the high ground on which the cemetery stands before D-Day was over.

Further to the east on Gold, Juno and Sword landing beaches, the British and Canadian divisions forged





*Orientation Table at the Overlook  
"The Landing Beaches 6-8 June 1944"*

steadily ahead. Within a week, under the cover of continuous naval gunfire and air support, the individual beachheads were linked together. Temporary anchorages and artificial harbors were constructed off the beachhead area during this period by sinking ships and prefabricated concrete caissons to the channel floor, facilitating the unloading of troops and supplies.

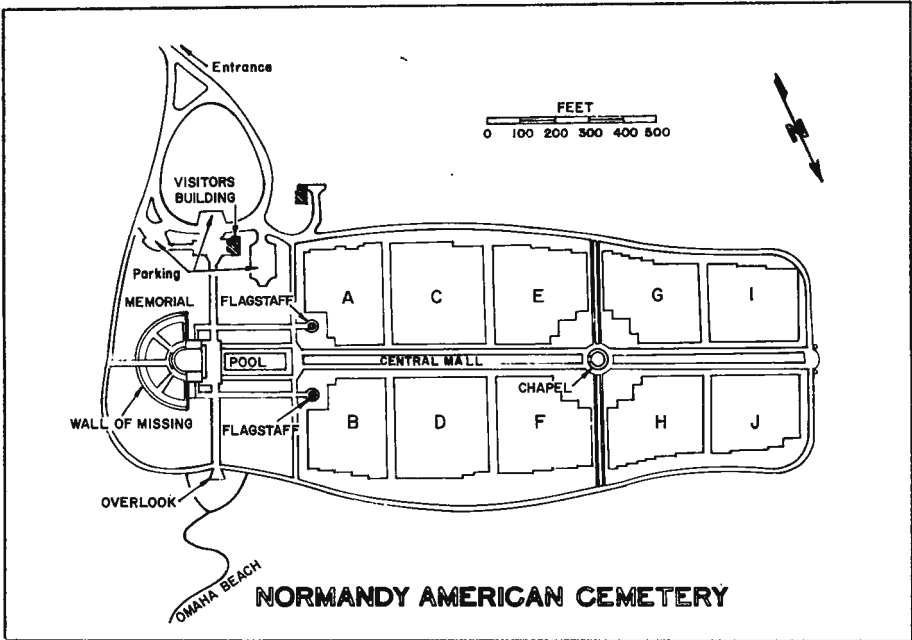
Rapidly, the Allied armies increased in size and strength. On 26 June, Americans freed Cherbourg; on 9 July, British and Canadians fought their way into Caen; and on 18 July Americans took St. Lo. Preceded by a paralyzing air bombardment on 25 July, the US First Army stormed out of the beachhead area. Coutances was liberated three days later and, within a week, the recently activated US Third Army cleared Avranches and was advancing toward Paris on a broad front.

## ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery's memorial features were Harbeson, Hough, Livingston & Larsen of Philadelphia, Pa. The landscape architect was Markley Stevenson, also of Philadelphia.

## THE SITE

The Normandy American Cemetery, 172.5 acres in extent, is one of fourteen permanent American World War II military cemeteries constructed on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Nearby, on D+1 (7 June 1944), the first temporary American World War II cemetery in France was established by the Army's Graves Registration Service. After the war, when the temporary cemeteries were disestablished by the Army, the remains of American military Dead whose next-of-kin requested permanent interment



overseas were moved to one of the fourteen permanent cemetery sites on foreign soil, usually the one which was closest to the temporary cemetery. There they were interred by the Graves Registration Service in the distinctive grave patterns proposed by the cemetery's architect and approved by the Commission. The design and construction of all facilities at the permanent sites were the responsibility of the Commission, i.e., the memorial, chapel, visitors' building, superintendents' quarters, service facilities and paths and roads. The Commission was also responsible for sculpture, landscaping and other improvements.

### GENERAL LAYOUT

The Normandy American Cemetery is generally rectangular in shape. Its main paths are laid out in the form of a Latin cross. A little over three-fourths of the cemetery is encompassed by its grave plots.

An avenue bordered by hedgerows, about one-half mile in length, leads

from highway N-814e to the main entrance at the southeast corner of the cemetery. Inside the main gate are the parking areas, the visitors' building, and the superintendents' quarters. Beyond them, filling most of the eastern end of the cemetery is a beautiful semi-circular memorial with a memorial garden and Tablets of the Missing to its rear. Facing west, the memorial overlooks a large reflecting pool, two flagpoles from which the American flag flies daily, the graves area and chapel.

A wide grassy mall extends westward from the reflecting pool bisecting the graves area. The memorial chapel is located on the mall about one-third of the way from its western end. A narrower north-south mall intersects the central mall at the chapel. Two Italian granite (Baveno) figures representing the United States and France rise above the graves area at the western end of the central mall. Encircling the cemetery proper is a service road.

An overlook, on a small jut of land



just north of the memorial affords an excellent view of Omaha Beach directly below and the English Channel. Located at the overlook is an orientation table showing the various beaches and forces involved in the Normandy landings. A low railing forms a parapet to the front at the edge of the cliff. From here, the whole action of the landings and the scaling of the escarpment may be visualized. Steps and a path descend to the beach below from the overlook. Along the path is a second orientation table showing the artificial harbor or "Mulberry" in some detail. Prior to the 1944 landings, the enemy had installed artillery and machine-guns along the cliffs so that he could fire lengthwise along the beaches. Two casemates may still be seen just east of the cemetery boundary.

The cemetery is surrounded on the east, south and west by heavy masses of Austrian pine (*pinus nigra*), interplanted with Whitebeam (*sorbus aria*), Russian olive (*eleagnus angustifolia*), sea buckthorn (*hippophae rhamnoides*), Japanese rose (*rosa rugosa*), and French tamarisk (*tamarix gallica*).

## THE MEMORIAL

The memorial structure consists of a semicircular colonnade with a loggia housing battle maps at each end and a large bronze sculpture in the open area formed by its arc. The loggias and colonnade are of Vaurion, a French limestone from the Cote d'Or region; the plinths and steps are of Ploumanach granite from Brittany. The ceilings of the loggias are of blue ceramic tile by Gentil et Bourdet of Paris. The floor of the open area within the arc is surfaced with pebbles taken from the invasion beach below the cliff imbedded in mortar.

Centered in the open arc of the memorial facing toward the graves area is a 22-foot bronze statue, "The Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves," on a rectangular pedestal of Ploumanach granite. The sculptor of this figure was Donald De Lue of Leonardo, New Jersey. It was cast in Milan, Italy by the Battaglia Foundry. Encircling the pedestal of the statue on the floor in bronze letters is the inscription, MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF THE COMING OF THE LORD.



Inset in the floor directly behind the statue are two small curved garden plots. Additionally, four small rectangular plots edged with boxwood are inset in the floor, two on each side of the statue. Adjacent to each rectangular plot on the side closest to the statue is a stone bench.

Carved on the inner face of the colonnade's lintel is the inscription:

THIS EMBATTLED SHORE, PORTAL OF FREEDOM, IS FOREVER HALLOWED BY THE IDEALS, THE VALOR AND THE SACRIFICES OF OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.

On the interior walls of the south loggia are three maps engraved in the stone and embellished with colored enamels. The largest map is on the south wall and is oriented with south at the top. It is entitled **THE LANDINGS ON THE NORMANDY BEACHES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEACHHEAD** and portrays the landings of 6 June 1944, the establishment of the firm beach-

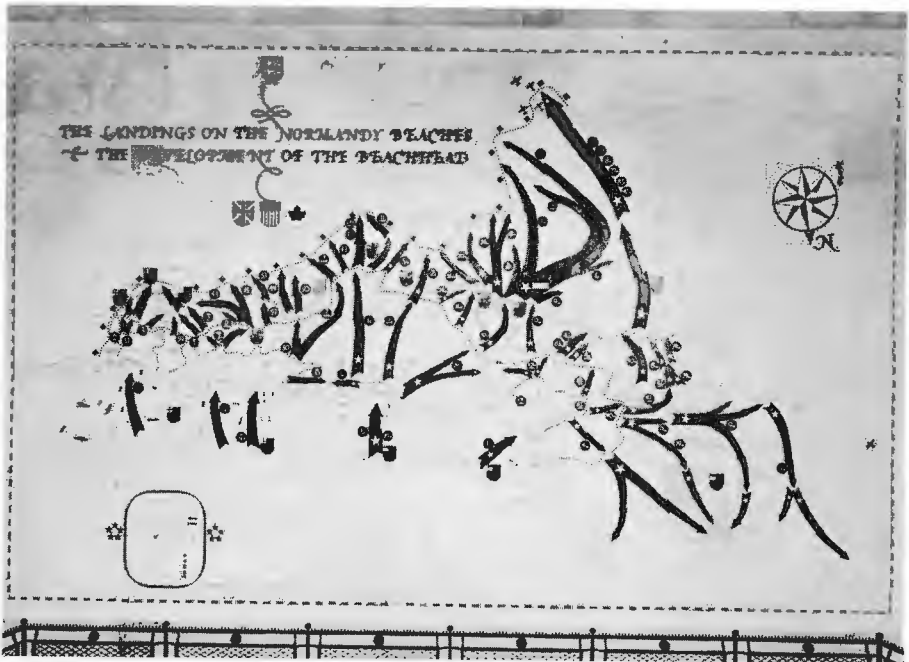
head, the liberation of Cherbourg and St. Lo, and the subsequent attack by which the allied forces broke out of the beachhead.

The map on the west wall of the south loggia is entitled **AIR OPERATIONS OVER NORMANDY MARCH-AUGUST 1944** and depicts air operations prior to the landings to include isolation of the beachhead area by the destruction of routes of access from the interior of France.

The following text is inscribed in English on the west wall above the map (a French version is inscribed on the east wall above the map):

#### THE ASSAULT AND THE BEACHHEAD

MANY MONTHS OF PLANNING AND DETAILED PREPARATION PRECEDED THE ALLIED LANDINGS IN NORMANDY. THE AIR BOMBARDMENT TO ISOLATE THE BATTLEFIELD BEGAN IN MARCH 1944. DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS THE ALLIED AIR FORCES, BY SYSTEMATICALLY BOMBING BRIDGES AND RAIL CENTERS, DISRUPTED ALL





FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN THE SEINE AND THE LOIRE; MEANWHILE STRATEGIC AIR OPERATIONS WERE CONTINUED DEEP INTO ENEMY TERRITORY TO COMPEL THE GERMAN AIR FORCE TO REMAIN ON THE DEFENSIVE.

IN THE DARKNESS OF THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 6 JUNE THREE AIRBORNE DIVISIONS (THE BRITISH 6, THE U.S. 82D AND 101ST) DROPPED BEYOND THE BEACHES TO DESTROY ENEMY FORCES AND TO COVER THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SEABORNE ASSAULT TROOPS. SIMULTANEOUSLY THE ALLIED NAVAL FORCES SWEEPED THE ENGLISH CHANNEL OF MINES AND PRECEDED THE ASSAULT VESSELS TO THE LANDING AREAS. AT 0630 HOURS, UNDER COVER OF NAVAL GUNFIRE AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, SIX U.S., BRITISH AND CANADIAN DIVISIONS LANDED IN THE GREATEST AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT RECORDED IN HISTORY.

AT UTAH BEACH, THE U.S. 4TH DIVISION PUSHED RAPIDLY INLAND TO JOIN THE U.S. AIRBORNE DIVISIONS.

AT OMAHA BEACH, PROGRESS OF THE U.S. 1ST AND 29TH DIVISIONS WAS SLOWER, CASUALTIES WERE HEAVIER, THE FIGHTING BITTER. ON GOLD, JUNO AND SWORD BEACHES, THE BRITISH AND CANADIANS FORGED STEADILY AHEAD. WITHIN A WEEK, UNDER COVER OF CONTINUOUS NAVAL GUNFIRE AND AIR SUPPORT, THE INDIVIDUAL BEACHHEADS HAD BEEN LINKED TOGETHER.

MEANWHILE, NAVAL PERSONNEL WERE ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY ANCHORAGES AND ARTIFICIAL HARBORS BY SINKING SHIPS AND PRE-FABRICATED CONCRETE CAISSONS. THESE EXPEDIENTS WERE OF PRICELESS AID IN THE UNLOADING OF TROOPS AND CARGO OVER THE UNSHELTERED BEACHES.

THE ALLIED ARMIES GREW RAPIDLY IN STRENGTH. DRIVING NORTHWARD, AMERICAN FORCES, AIDED BY STRONG NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, FREED CHERBOURG ON 26 JUNE. ON 9 JULY, THE BRITISH AND CANADIANS FOUGHT THEIR WAY INTO CAEN; NINE DAYS LATER U.S. UNITS TOOK ST. LO.

THE ALLIES COULD NOW UNLEASH THEIR PLANNED ATTACK TO BREAK OUT OF THE BEACHHEAD. WHILE BRITISH FORCES HEAVILY ENGAGED THE ENEMY ON THE ALLIED LEFT FLANK, AMERICAN TROOPS WEST OF ST. LO UNDERTOOK THE MAJOR EFFORT TO DRIVE THROUGH THE ENEMY DEFENSES. ON 25 JULY, FOLLOWING A PARALYZING BOMBARDMENT BY THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE U.S. 4TH, 9TH AND 30TH DIVISIONS OPENED A GAP IN THE ENEMY LINE WHICH WAS PROMPTLY EXPLOITED BY THE 1ST INFANTRY AND 2D AND 3D ARMORED DIVISIONS. OTHER AMERICAN FORCES PROGRESSIVELY ADDED THEIR EFFORTS, LIBERATING COUTANCES ON 28 JULY. IN A WEEK THE DRIVE HAD CLEARED AVRANCHES.

AFTER NEARLY TWO MONTHS CONFINEMENT TO THE BEACHHEAD AREA, THE ALLIED ARMIES HAD FINALLY BROKEN INTO THE OPEN AND WERE MOVING FORWARD ON A BROAD FRONT.

The map on the east wall is entitled 6 JUNE 1944—THE AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT LANDINGS and shows the naval plan for the landings and the manner in which it was executed.

Carved in the north wall of the north loggia of the memorial is a large map executed in a technique similar to that of the south loggia maps, entitled MILITARY OPERATIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE, 6 JUNE 1944-8 MAY 1945. It records the progress of the military operations in northwest Europe from the landings in Normandy to the end of the war. On the east and west walls are descriptive texts in English and French, and six key maps. The English text is as follows:

#### FROM NORMANDY TO THE ELBE

REACTING TO THE BREAK-OUT BY THE ALLIED FORCES FROM THE NORMANDY BEACHHEAD, THE ENEMY LAUNCHED A COUNTERATTACK TOWARD AVRANCHES WITH THE DESPER-

ATE HOPE OF CUTTING OFF OUR ADVANCING COLUMNS, BUT WAS REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSSES. THEREUPON, AMERICAN FORCES SWUNG NORTHWARD TOWARD ARGENTAN WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE BRITISH AND CANADIANS ADVANCED SOUTHWARD ON FALAISE. THREATENED WITH ENCIRCLEMENT, THE ENEMY TURNED BACK. HARASSED BY AIRCRAFT, HAMMERED INCESSANTLY BY ARTILLERY, HIS RETREAT BECAME A ROUT. BY 22 AUGUST, THE POCKET WAS ELIMINATED.

PRECEDED BY AIRCRAFT OF THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE BRITISH SECOND TACTICAL AIR FORCE, WHOSE CONSTANT ATTACKS HASTENED THE DISORGANIZATION OF THE RETREATING ENEMY, THE ALLIED ARMIES CROSSED THE SEINE, LIBERATED PARIS, AND SWEEPED ONWARD. AS THE DISTANCE FROM NORMANDY INCREASED THE SUPPLY PROBLEM BECAME ACUTE. STRONG ENEMY GARRISONS STILL HELD MOST OF THE CHANNEL PORTS, THUS PLACING A TREMENDOUS BURDEN UPON OUR LIMITED HARBOR FACILITIES. THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMY AND NAVY SUPPLY SERVICES IN SUSTAINING THE ADVANCING ARMIES CONTRIBUTED VITALLY TO THE LIBERATION OF NORTHERN FRANCE.

BY MID-SEPTEMBER, BRITISH AND CANADIAN TROOPS HAD FREED BRUSSELS AND ANTWERP AND ENTERED THE NETHERLANDS. THE U.S. FIRST ARMY HAD SWEEPED ACROSS BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG TO THE GERMAN BORDER, WHILE THE THIRD ARMY, AIDED BY AIRBORNE SUPPLY, REACHED THE MOSELLE IN A RAPID ADVANCE. IN BRITTANY THE GARRISON OF BREST SURRENDERED TO THE NEWLY ACTIVATED NINTH ARMY ON 18 SEPTEMBER. ON THE RIGHT FLANK THE U.S. SEVENTH AND FRENCH FIRST ARMIES, SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE, ADVANCED FROM THE BEACHES OF SOUTHERN FRANCE TO EXTEND THE ALLIED FRONT SOLIDLY TO THE SWISS FRONTIER.



PROGRESS IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS WAS SLOW, THE FIGHTING BITTER, AS OPPOSITION STIFFENED. A MINOR ADVANCE WAS EFFECTED IN THE NETHERLANDS WHEN THE ALLIED FIRST AIRBORNE ARMY LANDED IN THE ARNHEM-EINDHOVEN AREA IN A VALIANT BUT UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO SEIZE THE CROSSINGS OF THE LOWER RHINE; THERE FOLLOWED A SERIES OF GALLANT AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS TO CLEAR THE WATER APPROACHES TO THE PORT OF ANTWERP. IN THE CENTER, AMERICAN TROOPS BROKE THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE, SEIZED AACHEN, AND FOUGHT THEIR WAY TO THE ROER RIVER. FARTHER SOUTH THE FORTRESS OF METZ CAPITULATED AFTER A BITTER STRUGGLE, WHILE ON THE RIGHT FLANK THE AMERICANS AND FRENCH REACHED THE RHINE AT STRASBOURG AND MULHOUSE.

IN THE ARDENNES ON 16 DECEMBER THE ENEMY LAUNCHED HIS FINAL MAJOR COUNTER-OFFENSIVE, UNLEASHING THREE ARMIES ON A NARROW FRONT. THE STALWART DEFENSE AND SUPERB FIGHTING SKILL OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER FINALLY HALTED

THIS DRIVE. PROMPT AND CONTINUOUS COUNTERMEASURES BY GROUND AND AIR FORCES SUCCEEDED IN ELIMINATING THE GERMAN SALIENT BY MID-JANUARY. ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AN ENEMY ATTACK NEAR COLMAR WAS ALSO REPULSED AFTER A FURIOUS STRUGGLE.

ALLIED OPERATIONS TO CLEAR THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE IN FEBRUARY AND EARLY MARCH WERE BRILLIANTLY SUCCESSFUL; THE ARMIES INTENDED FOR THE DEFENSE OF GERMANY WERE SHATTERED BEYOND REPAIR. IN RAPID SUCCESSION, OUR FORCES THEN SEIZED A BRIDGE AT REMAGEN, FORCED A CROSSING AT OPPENHEIM, AND STAGED THEIR MAJOR AMPHIBIOUS AND AIRBORNE ASSAULT NORTH OF THE RUHR VALLEY. AS OUR GROUND FORCES RUSHED EASTWARD, PRECEDED BY AIRCRAFT WHICH HARASSED AND DEMORALIZED THE RETREATING ENEMY, THE RUHR WAS EN-CIRCLED IN A GIGANTIC DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT. SWEEPING THROUGH GERMANY THE ALLIED ARMIES MET THE ADVANCING TROOPS OF THE U.S.S.R. AT THE ELBE. HIS FORCES HAVING COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED, THE ENEMY CAPITULATED ON 8 MAY 1945, THUS BRINGING TO AN END THE







CAMPAIGN BEGUN ELEVEN MONTHS BEFORE ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY.

Three engraved stars separate the narrative and this inscription:

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL WAR 1941-1945. THESE SMALLER MAPS PORTRAY THE VAST AND DECISIVE EFFORT EXERTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HER ALLIES IN THE MANY INTERDEPENDENT THEATERS OF GLOBAL WAR THEY RELATE THE MAJOR EVENTS TO EACH OTHER IN TERMS OF TIME AND SPACE.

The maps in each loggia were designed by Robert Foster of New York City from data furnished by the American Battle Monuments Commission and were executed by Maurice Schmit of Paris.

The following dedicatory inscription appears in French on the west face of the south loggia and in English on the west face of the north loggia: 1941-1945 IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER SONS AND IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICES THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Inset in a tall rectangular aperture in the east and west walls of each loggia is a large bronze urn on which are sculptured two different

scenes in high relief. The urns were designed by Donald De Lue and cast by the Marinelli foundry of Florence, Italy. The scene on one urn in each loggia is that of a dying warrior astride a charging horse, symbolic of war, as an Angel of God supports him and receives his spirit. On the opposite side of the urn, a woman kneels holding her child beside the wreath-decorated grave of a soldier as the Star of Eternal Life shines above, symbolic of the immense sacrifice by women and children bereaved in war. The laurel leaf design around the top of the urn signifies victory and honor.

On the other urn in each loggia is a figure representative of God in Genesis, Chapter 1: "The spirit of the Lord moved on the face of the waters." On the water below the figure is a spray of laurel recalling to memory those who lost their lives at sea; a rainbow emanates from each hand of the figure symbolizing hope and peace. The opposite side of the urn shows an angel pushing away a stone, symbolic of the Resurrection and Eternal Life.





The four scenes on the urns in the north loggia are the same as the four scenes on the urns in the south loggia. The urns, however, have been emplaced on their pedestals so that the scenes facing into the loggias are different.

The Great Seal of the United States is inscribed on the south face of the south loggia. Beneath the seal is engraved: A.D. 1954, AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION HARBESON HOUGH LIVINGSTON AND LARSON ARCHITECTS PAUL BRANCHE ARCHITECTE REPRESENTANT LOCAL. The reverse of the Great Seal is inscribed on the north face of the north loggia.

#### THE GARDEN OF THE MISSING

Directly behind the memorial structure is the Garden of the Missing. Its semicircular wall, the easternmost feature of the garden, contains the names and particulars engraved on

stone tablets of the 1,557 Missing in the region who gave their lives in the service of their country but whose remains have not been recovered or if recovered, have not been identified. The tablets are separated on the wall by large sculptured laurel leaves.

The following inscriptions in English and French appear on the wall above the names of the Missing: HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES. THIS IS THEIR MEMORIAL THE WHOLE EARTH THEIR SEPULCHRE. COMRADES IN ARMS WHOSE RESTING PLACE IS KNOWN ONLY TO GOD.

At the rear of the memorial colonnade on the western side of the garden is inscribed this extract from the dedication by General Dwight D. Eisenhower of the "Golden Book" now enshrined in St. Paul's Cathedral, London:



TO THESE WE OWE THE HIGH RESOLVE THAT THE CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY DIED SHALL LIVE.

Radiating from the memorial to the curved wall of the Missing are five paths dividing the garden into four truncated fan-shaped lawn areas. Two paths paralleling the arc of the memorial and the garden wall connect the radiating paths. The lawn areas of the garden are bordered with beds of polyantha roses; European ash trees (*fraxinus excelsior*) grow in the lawn areas. Planting beds at the foot of the walls contain St. Johnswort (*hypericum calycinum*) and boxwood (*buxus sempervirens*).

#### THE CHAPEL .

The circular chapel in the graves area is constructed of Vaurion limestone except for its steps which are of granite. Surmounting the chapel is a bronze finial with armillary sphere which serves as a lightning arrester.

On the outside wall of the chapel to the north of its entrance are the inscriptions:

THIS CHAPEL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF HER SONS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE LANDINGS ON THE NORMANDY BEACHES AND IN THE LIBERATION OF NORTHERN FRANCE.

THEIR GRAVES ARE THE PERMANENT AND VISIBLE SYMBOL OF THEIR HEROIC DEVOTION AND THEIR SACRIFICE IN THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

An engraved star separates the two inscriptions. A French translation of the texts is inscribed on the outside wall of the chapel to the south. On the exterior of the lintel of the chapel is inscribed:

THESE ENDURED ALL AND GAVE ALL THAT JUSTICE AMONG NATIONS MIGHT PREVAIL AND THAT MANKIND MIGHT ENJOY FREEDOM AND INHERIT PEACE.

Directly above the chapel's door is engraved a replica of the Congressional Medal of Honor, our country's highest award for valor.

#### CHAPEL INTERIOR

On entering the chapel, one's attention is drawn immediately to the altar of black and gold Pyrenees Grand Antique marble with the inscription: I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH, engraved across its front. Directly behind the altar, a tall window with a translucent amber coating illuminates it with a soft yellow light. On the glass around the edges of the window are 48 stars representing the then 48 States. Immediately above the altar table is a Star of David with a dove in the center of the Star. Affixed to the lower-half of the window is a thin teakwood Latin cross, the sides of which are encased in gold-leafed copper. The altar sits on a two-tiered platform of travertine limestone quarried in France and is flanked on both sides by flags of the United States, France, Great Britain and Canada.

The interior walls of the chapel also are of travertine limestone quarried in France. Inscribed on the south interior wall is the inscription: THROUGH THE GATE OF DEATH MAY THEY PASS TO THEIR JOYFUL RESURRECTION. Above the inscription is a Latin cross in relief carved on a circle. Separating the inscription and the cross are three small engraved stars. Directly opposite on the north interior wall of the chapel is the inscription: THINK NOT ONLY UPON THEIR PASSING REMEMBER THE GLORY OF THEIR SPIRIT. Over the inscription are the Tablets of Moses surmounted by a Star of David carved in relief on a circle. Separating the inscription and the tablets are three small engraved stars.

The colorful mosaic ceiling was designed and executed by Leon Kroll



of New York City. It symbolizes America blessing her sons as they depart by sea and air to fight for freedom, and a grateful France bestowing a laurel wreath upon American Dead who gave their lives to liberate Europe's oppressed peoples. The return of peace is recalled by the angel, dove, and the homeward-bound ship.

#### GRAVES AREA

The graves area contains ten grave plots, five on each side of the main (east-west) mall. Facing the graves area from the memorial, plots A, C, E, G and I line the left (south) side of the main mall and plots B, D, F, H and J the right. Interred within them are the remains of 9,386 servicemen and women, 307 of which are Unknowns, i.e. those which could not be identified. Each grave is marked with a white marble headstone, a Star of David for those of the Jewish faith, a Latin cross for all others. The precisely aligned headstones against the immaculately maintained emerald

green lawn convey an unforgettable feeling of peace and serenity. Interspersed among the plots are informal massifs of deciduous and conifer trees, shrubs and wild roses.

The servicemen and women interred in the cemetery came from all fifty States and the District of Columbia. A small number also came from England, Scotland and Canada. Buried here side by side are a father and his son, and in thirty instances brothers.

#### VISITORS' BUILDING

The visitors' building is located to the left of the parking area at the head of the path leading to the memorial. It contains the Superintendent's office, toilet facilities, and a comfortably furnished room where visitors may obtain information, sign the register and pause to refresh themselves. During the day, a member of the cemetery staff is available in the building to answer questions and provide information on burials and



## TIME CAPSULE

Imbedded in the lawn directly opposite the entrance to the visitors' building is a time capsule in which has been sealed news reports of the June 6, 1944 Normandy landings. The capsule is covered by a Ploumanach rose granite slab upon which is engraved: TO BE OPENED JUNE 6, 2044. Affixed in the center of the slab is a bronze plaque adorned with the five stars of a General of the Army and engraved with the following inscription:

IN MEMORY OF GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER AND THE FORCES UNDER HIS COMMAND THIS SEALED CAPSULE CONTAINING NEWS REPORTS OF THE JUNE 6, 1944 NORMANDY LANDINGS IS PLACED HERE BY THE NEWSMEN WHO WERE THERE.

JUNE 6, 1969

memorializations in the Commission's cemeteries, accommodations in the vicinity, travel, local history and other items of interest.



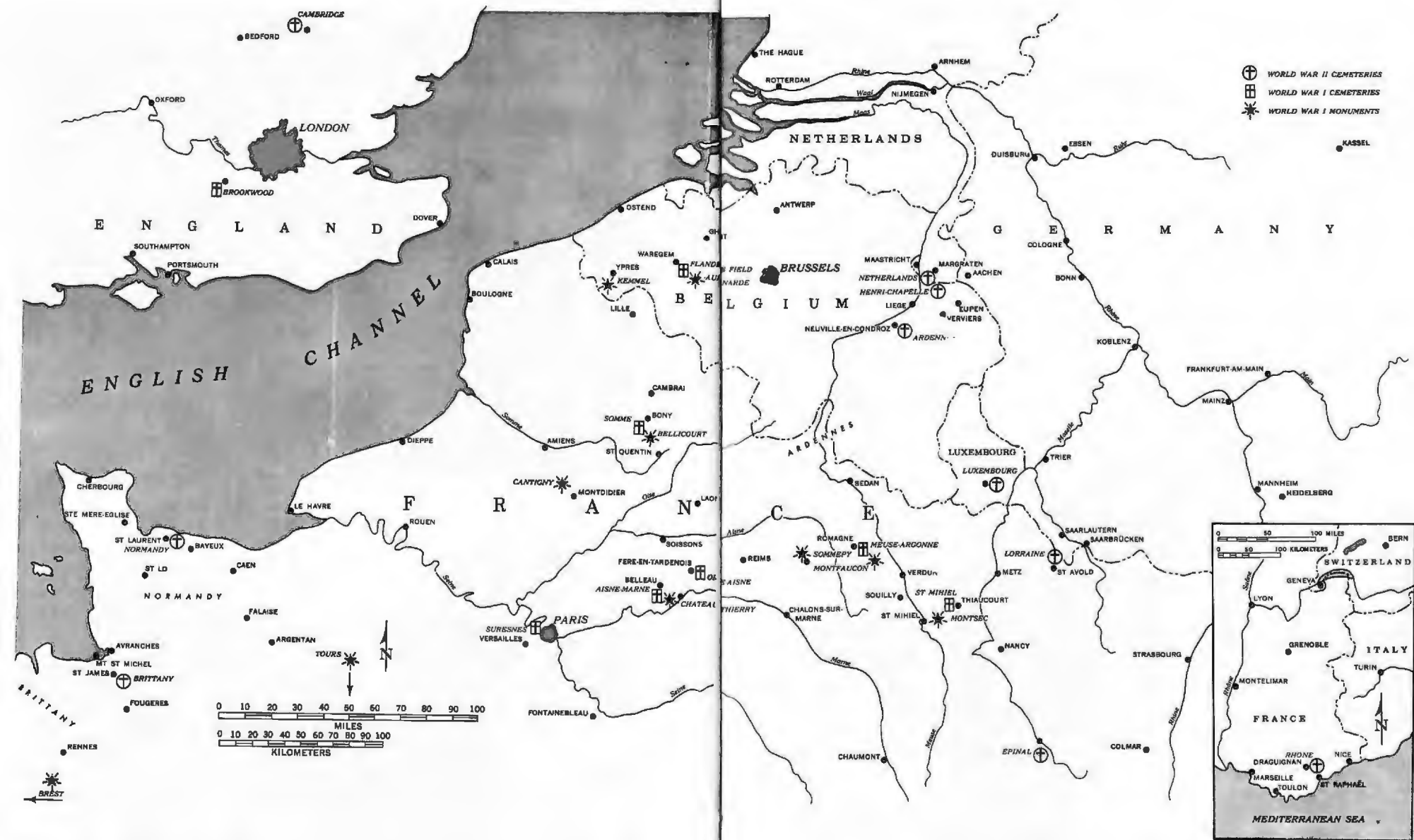


*Somme American Cemetery, Bony, Aisne, France*

## AMERICAN MEMORIALS and OVERSEAS MILITARY CEMETERIES

The AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION was created by act of Congress in March 1923 to erect and maintain memorials in the United States and foreign countries where the United States Armed Forces have served since April 6, 1917, and to control as to design and

provide regulations for the erection of monuments, markers, and memorials in foreign countries by other United States citizens and organizations, public or private. It was later given responsibility for establishing or taking over from the Armed Forces permanent burial grounds in



foreign countries and designing, constructing and maintaining permanent cemetery memorials at these burial sites; controlling as to design and materials, providing regulations for, and supervising erection of all monuments, memorials, buildings, and other structures in permanent United States cemetery memorials

on foreign soil; and cooperating with American citizens, States, municipalities, or associations desiring to erect war memorials outside the continental limits of the United States. It is not responsible for construction, maintenance, or operation of cemeteries in the continental United States or its Territories and possessions.

After World War I the American Battle Monuments Commission erected a memorial chapel in each of the eight military cemeteries overseas already established by the War Department, as well as 11 monuments and two bronze tablets on the battlefields and elsewhere, to record the achievements of our Armed

Forces. In 1934 the World War I overseas cemeteries were transferred to the Commission by Executive Order. The names and locations of these World War I cemetery memorials, the numbers of burials, and the numbers of Missing recorded at their memorials are:



|  | Burials       |              | Missing<br>Commemo-<br>rated |
|--|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|
|  | Knowns        | Unknowns     |                              |
| Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France.....          | 2,039         | 249          | 1,060                        |
| Brookwood, England.....                    | 427           | 41           | 563                          |
| Flanders Field, Waregem, Belgium.....      | 347           | 21           | 43                           |
| Meuse-Argonne, Romagne, France.....        | 13,760        | 486          | 954                          |
| Oise-Aisne, Pere-en-Tardenois, France..... | 5,415         | 597          | 241                          |
| St. Mihiel, Thiaucourt, France.....        | 4,036         | 117          | 284                          |
| Somme, Bony, France.....                   | 1,706         | 138          | 333                          |
| Suresnes (See WW II also), France.....     | 1,535         | 6            | 974                          |
| <b>Totals.....</b>                         | <b>29,265</b> | <b>1,655</b> | <b>4,452</b>                 |

World War I monuments erected by the Commission are located at or near: Audenarde, Belgium; Bellicourt, France; Brest, France; Cantigny, France; Chateau-Thierry, France; Gibraltar; Kemmel, Belgium; Montfaucon, France; Montsec, France; Sommepey, France; and Tours, France. World War I tablets are at Chaumont and Souilly, France.

By the end of World War II several hundred temporary cemeteries had been established by the American Graves Registration Service of the United States Army. During the years 1947 to 1954 that Service, complying with the expressed wishes of the next of kin, and by authority of law, repatriated the remains of some 172,000 recovered bodies. The remainder were given final interment in the permanent military cemeteries on foreign soil, in private cemeteries overseas, and in the national cemeteries

in Honolulu, Sitka, and Puerto Rico (which remain under Army control). As was the case after World War I, some remains were left in isolated graves outside of the cemeteries by request of the families who then became responsible for their maintenance.

Fourteen sites in foreign countries were selected as permanent cemeteries in 1947 by the Secretary of the Army and the American Battle Monuments Commission in concert. Their locations reflect the progress of the military operations and were selected with consideration of their accessibility, aspect, prospect, drainage, and other practical factors. The World War II cemeteries with numbers of burials, including Unknowns, and the numbers of Missing recorded at their memorials and at three separate memorials on United States soil are:

|   | Burials |          | Missing<br>Commemo-<br>rated |
|---|---------|----------|------------------------------|
|   | Knowns  | Unknowns |                              |
| Ardennes, Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium..... | 4,530   | 783      | 462                          |
| Brittany, St. James, France.....            | 4,313   | 97       | 498                          |
| Cambridge, England.....                     | 3,787   | 24       | 5,125                        |
| Epinal, France.....                         | 5,186   | 69       | 424                          |
| Florence, Italy.....                        | 4,189   | 213      | 1,409                        |
| Henri-Chapelle, Belgium.....                | 7,895   | 94       | 450                          |
| Lorraine, St. Ayold, France.....            | 10,338  | 151      | 444                          |
| Luxembourg, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.... | 4,975   | 101      | 370                          |
| Manila, Republic of the Philippines.....    | 13,464  | 3,744    | 36,279                       |
| Netherlands, Margraten, Netherlands.....    | 8,195   | 106      | 1,722                        |
| Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France.....  | 9,079   | 307      | 1,557                        |

|   |               |              |               |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia.....              | 2,600         | 240          | 3,724         |
| Rhone, Draguignan, France.....                    | 799           | 62           | 293           |
| Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy.....                  | 7,372         | 490          | 3,094         |
| Suresnes (See WW I also), France.....             |               | 24           |               |
| East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York..... |               |              | 4,596         |
| Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii.....          |               |              | 18,093        |
| West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, Calif.....    |               |              | * (8,194)     |
|   |               |              | 412           |
| <b>Totals.....</b>                                | <b>86,722</b> | <b>6,505</b> | <b>78,952</b> |

World War II cemeteries maintained by the Department of the Army are:

|                       |        |       |                         |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------|
| Honolulu, Hawaii..... | 11,505 | 2,028 | (See Honolulu Memorial) |
| Puerto Rico.....      | 69     |       |                         |
| Sitka, Alaska.....    | 67     | 5     |                         |

In every case, use of the permanent cemetery sites on foreign soil was granted in perpetuity by the host government to the United States free of cost, rent, and taxation. The temporary cemetery sites not selected as permanent cemeteries reverted to the landowners.

In 1947, an outstanding American architect was selected to design each of the World War II cemeteries, conceiving its grave plots, a chapel and a museum as complementary elements of an integral memorial to the services and sacrifices of the American Armed Services who fought in the particular region. Upon approval of their general schemes by the Commission, and by agreement with the Secretary of the Army, the architects' plans of the grave plots were followed by the American Graves Registration Service in making the permanent burials of those remains which by decision of the next of kin were to be interred overseas. The timely cooperation between these two agencies contributed appreciably to the coher-

ence of the development of the cemetery designs.

Beginning in the latter half of 1949, the permanent interments having been virtually completed, the World War II overseas cemeteries were progressively transferred for construction and maintenance to the American Battle Monuments Commission by Presidential Executive Order. Thereupon the remaining portions of the architects' designs were carried out, step by step—grading; installation of a system of reinforced concrete beams on piles to maintain the levels and alignments of the headstones; fabrication and installation of the headstones; construction of water supply and distribution systems, utilities buildings, roads and paths; plantings; and erection of the memorials, visitors buildings, and flagpoles.

For design of the various memorials, no specific limitations were imposed upon the architects other than budgeted cost and a requirement that each was to embody these features:

\*8,194 Missing of the Korean conflict are commemorated at the Honolulu Memorial in addition to the 18,093 of World War II commemorated there.



*Memorial and Wall of the Missing, Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England*

A small devotional chapel.

Inscription of the names and particulars of the Missing in the region.

A graphic record, in permanent form, of the services of our troops (WW II only; however, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel WW I American Cemeteries also have maps).

These requirements have been interpreted in a wide and interesting variety of forms.

An important motive for the construction of the memorials is the implied undertaking by our Government to record by monuments the achievements of our Armed Services, since the erection of memorials by the troops (which in the past unfortunately had all too often been found to be poorly designed, poorly constructed, and lacking provision for maintenance) was expressly forbidden by the military services. The permanent graphic record takes the

form of military maps, usually large murals, amplified by descriptive texts in English as well as in the language of the country in which the cemetery is located. The historical data for these maps were prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The maps themselves were rendered by experienced artists in tasteful presentation using various media: layered marbles, fresco, bronze relief, mosaic concrete or ceramics. Another feature of interest at each memorial is the two sets of "key-maps": "The War Against Germany" and "The War Against Japan." Each set consists of three maps, each covering about one-third of the period of our participation in the war. By these key-maps any major battle may be related to the others in time and space.

With each architect, an American landscape architect, an American sculptor, and an American muralist or painter usually collaborated.



*Maps on Chapel Walls, Ardennes American Cemetery, Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium*

Their combined talents produced the beauty and dignity of the memorials, all of which are dedicated to the memory of the achievements of those who served and of the sacrifices of those who died. The construction of the cemeteries and memorials, and the execution of most of the works of art, were performed by local contractors and artists under the supervision of the Commission.

At each cemetery there is a visitors' building or room, with comfortable furnishings. Here visitors may learn the grave locations (or inscriptions of the Missing) at any of the overseas cemeteries.

Each grave in the overseas cemeteries is marked by a headstone of white marble—a Star of David for those of Jewish faith, a Latin cross for all others. Each headstone bears the deceased's name, rank, service, organization, date of death, and State or Territory from which he

entered the military service.

In the World War I cemeteries, headstones of the Unknowns, i.e., those remains which could not be identified, bear the inscription:

HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN  
AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO  
GOD.

In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY A  
COMRADE IN ARMS KNOWN BUT TO  
GOD.

Tablets of the Missing (which also include the names of those whose remains could not be identified, and those lost and buried at sea) give name, rank, organization, and State; the circumstances under which death occurred usually precluded the possibility of determining the exact date.

These cemeteries are open every



*The Buddy Statue, Sicily-Rome  
American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy*

day of the year. Photography is permitted without special authorization, except when it is to be used for commercial purposes—in such cases, permission must be obtained from the Commission's local office.

Unlike National cemeteries under jurisdiction of the Department of the Army, there can be no further burials in the American military cemeteries overseas except of those remains which may, in the future, be found on the battlefields. Essentially, these graves with their memorials constitute inviolable shrines.

In addition to the eight World War I cemeteries, the 14 World War II cemeteries, 11 World War I monuments and two tablets, the American Battle Monuments Commission program of commemoration includes the following:

### SURESNES

At the Suresnes Cemetery Memorial, senior representatives of the French and United States Governments pay

homage to our military Dead on ceremonial occasions. Accordingly, 24 Unknown Dead of World War II were buried in this World War I cemetery, and two loggias were added to its chapel by the Commission, thereby converting it into a shrine commemorating our Dead of both wars.

### EAST COAST MEMORIAL

To commemorate those 4,596 Americans who, in or above the waters off the east coast of North and South America, gave their lives in the service of their country, the Commission erected a memorial in Battery Park, New York City, upon which their names and particulars are inscribed.

### WEST COAST MEMORIAL

Similarly, the names and particulars of those 412 Americans who gave their lives in the service of their country off the west coasts of the Americas are recorded at the memorial erected by the Commission at the Presidio of San Francisco.

### HONOLULU MEMORIAL

Although the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Honolulu is administered by the Department of the Army, the American Battle Monuments Commission, by agreement with the Secretary of the Army, constructed a memorial therein, incorporating the features of the memorials in its overseas cemeteries. The names of 18,093 Missing of World War II who gave their lives in the Pacific areas, except the Southwest and the Palau Islands which are commemorated at the Manila Cemetery Memorial, are recorded here as well as the 8,194 Missing of the Korean conflict.



*Honolulu Memorial (WW II & Korea) National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific,  
Honolulu, Hawaii*

## **DISTINGUISHED MILITARY ACTIONS COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM**

The Commission's memorialization program includes the erection of other monuments or commemorative tablets at places of outstanding military significance around the world during World War II and the Korean War. Among these, plans have been prepared for monuments on Guam, and at Utah Beach in France. The objective is to achieve balanced commemoration of all services in all theaters.

## **MEXICO CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY**

The Mexico City National Cemetery, 31 Calzada Melchor Ocampo, Mexico City, Mexico, was transferred from administration by the Department of the Army to the Commission on July 16, 1947. In a

mass grave in this cemetery are interred the remains of 750 of our unidentified Dead of the War of 1847.

## **FLORAL DECORATIONS**

In the overseas cemeteries, the decoration of graves or the Tablets of the Missing with natural cut flowers only is permitted. The Commission is always ready to help arrange with local florists in foreign countries for placement of such decorations. Requests should be mailed so as to arrive at the appropriate Commission office at least thirty days before the date of decoration and should be accompanied by check or U. S. Postal Money Order in dollars. Deposits may be made for a single decoration on a particular day—birthday, Memorial Day, Christmas Day, for example—or for several decorations on particular dates within a year or over a period of years. Checks should be made payable to "ABMC Flower Fund,"



money orders to "The American Battle Monuments Commission." Requests should be addressed to the Commission's European office, except in the case of Florence, Sicily-Rome, and North Africa cemeteries, where the Mediterranean office is responsible and Manila cemetery, where the Philippine office is responsible.

Orders for flowers for all cemeteries may also be placed through any local florist who is a member of the "Florists Telegraph Delivery Association." In such cases, the name of the deceased, his rank, service number, name of the cemetery, country in which located, and the location by plot, row, and grave should be provided, if known.



*Decorated Gravesite of an "Unknown".*



## PHOTOGRAPHS

Upon request of close relatives of the Dead, buried or commemorated in the Commission's World War I cemeteries, the Commission will furnish a black-and-white photograph of the particular grave, or of the section of the engraved list of the Missing which includes the particular name.

To close relatives of the Dead, buried or commemorated in the Commission's World War II cemeteries and memorials, the Commission will furnish a color lithographed picture of the cemetery, together with a black-and-white photograph of the particular grave, or of the section of the engraved list of the Missing which includes the particular name. For the Honolulu, East Coast and West Coast Memorials, the Commission will supply a lithographed picture of the memorial itself and a black-and-white photograph of the appropriate section of the list of the Missing. Photographs of graves in the National

Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (in Honolulu) are not available through the Commission. Requests for photographs and lithographs should be addressed to the Commission's Washington Office.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information regarding cemeteries and memorials may be obtained at the Commission's offices in Washington, Garches (near Paris), Rome, or Manila. Visitors passing through these cities are invited to call. The Commission's representatives there may be of assistance in verifying travel routes and schedules and also in furnishing information concerning overnight accommodations. These offices are not open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays, but essential information may be obtained overseas through our Embassy telephone operators.

### SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AVAILABLE THROUGH THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Name, location, and general information concerning the cemetery or memorial; plot, row, and grave number if appropriate; best routes and modes of travel in-country to the cemetery or memorial; general information about the accommodations that may be available in the vicinity; escort service within the cemetery memorial for relatives; letters authorizing fee-free passports for members of the immediate family traveling overseas to visit a grave or memorial site; black-and-white photographs of headstones and sections of the Tablets of the Missing on which the servicemen's names are engraved; large color lithographs of World War II cemeteries and memorials to which the World War II headstone or section of the Tablets of the Missing photographs are affixed; and arrangements for floral decoration of grave and memorial sites.

# THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923

## *Membership*

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Mark W. Clark<br><i>Chairman</i>          | Harold A. Horn                |
| Charles E. Potter<br><i>Vice Chairman</i> | Richard J. Vander Plaats      |
| Gerhard D. Bleicken                       | Leslie M. Fry                 |
| William C. Garrison                       | Fred C. Bramlage              |
| Harvey A. Roffman                         | Alfred P. Chamie              |
|   | A. J. Adams, <i>Secretary</i> |

## UNITED STATES OFFICE

Room 4C014, Forrestal Building  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D. C. 20314  
Telephone: 693-6067  
693-6089  
Telegrams: Monuments  
Washington

## EUROPEAN OFFICE

Street Address:  
68, rue du 19 Janvier  
92 - Garches, France  
Mailing Address:  
APO New York 09777  
Telephone: 970-01-73  
970-20-70  
Telegrams: ABMC AMEMBASSY  
Paris,  
France

## MEDITERRANEAN OFFICE

Street Address:  
American Embassy,  
Via Veneto 119a  
Rome, Italy  
Mailing Address:  
APO New York 09794  
Telephone: 4674, Ext. 156  
475157  
Telegrams: ABMC AMEMBASSY  
Rome, Italy

## PHILIPPINE OFFICE

Street Address:  
American Military Cemetery  
Manila, R. P.  
Mailing Address:  
APO San Francisco 96528  
Telephone: Manila 88-02-12  
Telegrams: AMBAMCOM,  
Manila, R.P.



*Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France*

~~SECRET~~

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

*RR*

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 *RR*, NARA, Date *2/20/97*

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

cc Vice President  
Mike Deaver

DECLASSIFIED

NLS F96-016 #2BY smf, 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 co-operation 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.