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Last Updated: 02/21/2024

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO:

Ben Olin H

FROM:

MICHAEL K. DEAVER
Assistant to the President
Deputy Chief of Staff

Information

Action

Peggy
Tony
Kim W
Julie

SID CORNELL
P. O. Box 9
San Diego, CA 92112
(619) 295-0115

May 18, 1984

Mr. Michael K. Deaver
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: D-Day Commemoration, June 5, 1984

Dear Mr. Deaver:

I am writing to you at the personal suggestion of some loyal San Diego Republicans. Since time is of the essence in this instance, the enclosed material could be helpful to the President's message on the commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of D-Day on June 5, 1984.

The attached letter speaks for itself and all 36 million people killed as a consequence of World War II. It also speaks for all of us including future generations.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sid Cornell". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Sid Cornell

Enclosure

SID CORNELL
P. O. Box 9
San Diego, CA 92112
(619) 295-0115

May 18, 1984

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

D-Day 40th Anniversary June 5, 1984

Allow me to present a review of events meaningful on this occasion. Why are we commemorating it?

"Lest we forget" -- the lives of 36 million victims of World War II and the hope to avoid World War III.

"History gives you a general feeling for the past,
an awareness of the present, and
an inspiration for the future."

Let us look hopefully to our future on this occasion with the courage of those who landed on the Normandy beaches June 5, 1944.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sid Cornell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sid Cornell
Founding Chairman
San Diego Historical Society
Institute of History

D-DAY 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION JUNE 5, 1984

World War II cost 36 million lives.

WORLD BLUNDER #1 - How did it start!

- . August 25, 1939, the Nazis and the Russians signed a mutual aid pact.
- . September 1, 1939, the Nazis and the Russians invade and conquer Poland within a month.
- . September 3, 1939, Britain and other allies declare war on Germany and Russia.
- . June 22, 1941, the Nazis invade Russia and push them back to the gates of Moscow.
- . March 1942, Foreign Minister Molotov flies to Washington to plead for help and supplies.

America responded, under Lend Lease. The allied merchant marine undertook to deliver these supplies. Our men and ships were risked on the run to Murmansk, passing through the Nazi U-boat blockade and the severe cold weather torpedoings. Russia was saved!

The Russians then began to advance west towards Nazi Germany. At the same period, allied troops landed on the Normandy beachheads on June 5, 1944 and advanced eastward towards Nazi Germany. On May 7, 1945, victory in Europe came about and became known as VE Day.

WORLD BLUNDER #2. The Russian people were commemorating VE Day 1984. That same day, their government announced that they were quitting the 1984 Olympic Games. Why? Let us remember the axiom - "Winners never quit, quitters never win." They and their satellites by this action lose the opportunity to show the spirit of togetherness and competition in the world of sports.

WORLD BLUNDER #3. The final blunder will obliterate all of us and our children forever. Sometime ago, Alfred North Whitehead said, "A controversy is not necessarily a disaster, it can be an opportunity." The world is waiting for the opportunity to resolve this controversy with words, not bombs. Let's speak up together, in commemoration of D-Day June 5, 1984, for the memory of the 36 million victims of World War II. Some were my family, my friends, and my comrades -- all were human beings!

Sid Cornell

Founding Chairman
Annual Institute of History
San Diego Historical Society

P. O. Box 9
San Diego, CA 92112
(619) 295-0115

Call Col. BARNEY Legg
Coordinator for Normandy Vet's
ceremony
1964-9213

Point du Hoc

Bill Henke - Advance re: Normandy

Jim Kuban

Colonel Skates
Historical advisor

Point du Hoc

Rangers (201) 349-1014 Miss Ward

Point du Hoc

(Miss Ward)

Leonard Lomell - atty
(201) 349-2443 office
- (201) 349-2676 New Jersey
Tom's River (none phone)
(201) (349-1098)

was on their maps
and they only noticed
the discrepancy in
spelling later after the war

[This was there from 6, 1944
leading to 2-man contingent +
80
(137)

Omaha
Beach

Major Honey - in gran
book series of moving story
from Stanton, VA - subject
of St. Lo -

Captain Lanas -

Veto organizations -
large groups travelling there -

Mr. Lomell in France
Chateau de Molay
Bayeux

16 - (31) 22 - 8 - 82
Call Paris Bureau
359 - 1171

Point du Hoc - Rangers -

116th Regimental Combat Team

They will have 5 present day Rangers who were in Grenada
2nd Battalion 75th Range Color Guard

Reenactment
on 5th

Phil Rivers
33 sets of brother - at Cemetery
Cal. Clay Maran - [272-0534]

~~Col~~ Col Grant

RIVERS phone

[31-22-4062]

Major Acme - St. Louis

[201) 349 2676
Miss Ward]

Louisiana

~~report fast~~
~~Angels~~

The American Battle
Monuments Commission

68, rue du 19 Janvier
92 - Grarches, France

ADG New York 09777

a better world for our kids

Principles of Atlantic Relationship
Par
future will
success generation network

Lines & shadows

Central America
Craig Johnston

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

EUROPE - Centrality in themes

PRESERVING PEACE & PROSPERITY

April Creston speech - refer to

normandy is the reassurance Europeans

low expectations posture

Rambouillet - 1974 spirit of harmony & unity in Ottawa

U.S. economic expansion is important to world prosperity

Margaret Thatcher's show - good deal of heart of the mind - Thatcher, Kohl, Reagan

Highlight - para on extra economic items

space station - pizza - 25th

Reality entering spirit of RR's relations

countering terrorism

imagery - Thatcher - Reagan tough leaders & dominating

June 6

Point de Hoc - French questioning schedule

Ranger station ceremonial - territory ceded to U.S. by treaty

Public Diplomacy - concern about Ireland

PARLIAMENT ADDRESS

WHCA filings on Kennedy visit

Central America - nuclear buildup

Attempt to establish Am, vote

at Normandy -

Colleville-sur-Mer
20 k from Bayeux

Point du Hoc

Mr. Saylor (Bill)

Grouping point for
all of the cemeteries
WW II Cemeteries

9,385 WWII
+ 1 WWI

33 brothers

1 father and son burial
Capt. Oliver Reed ; son Oliver Reed, Jr.
died first

Richardson grave visited
by Mrs. Reagan

~~from~~
Lt. QUENTIN ROOSEVELT (July, 1918)
Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.
[out Dir. Commander of Utah Beach w/ 4th Div.]

at request of Mrs. Roosevelt
where he was earlier
DISE - AISNE (was - an)

930

Bayeux
The PAGERIE

8 am

Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair
buried there
Medal of Honor Winner

Otto Mazza - [Beewaukee, Wisconsin
Co Commander F Co -
Salesman -

Elmer Vermelt

- Pella, Iowa + Jarner - mostly com; bears
"Dutch" - [Sat. Eve Post] - close to RR in Des
Maines
[G.K. ~~Hodentfield~~ Hodentfield]
[Angia 1944] from Glenwood, Iowa
AP - head of journalism

[went with them on the paint
stars; Stripes reporter

I climbed the cliffs with the Rangers
state politics - Iowa Republican state legis /
worked for Bob Ray - Rep Gov 13 years
Admin. Asst - 12 years.

[will probably speak an observation post - Silver star -
former demolition officer

Gerald Eberste - wasn't killed but hasn't seen
him since -

Co Commander of E Com - Gilbert
- "Bough" - shot in the face - saw him walk to
medical care - but

ICW

(Noonan/BE)
May 24, 1984
1:30 p.m.

RR

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

We are here to mark that day in history when the Allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For 4 long years, much of Europe had been under a terrible shadow. Free nations had fallen, Jews cried out in the camps, millions cried out for liberation. Europe was enslaved, and the world waited for its rescue. Here, in Normandy, the rescue began. Here the West stood, and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history.

We stand on a lonely, windswept point on the northern shore of France. As I speak, the air is soft and full of sunlight. But 40 years ago at this moment, the air was dense with smoke and the cries of men, the air was filled with the crack of rifle fire and the boom of cannons. At dawn on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, 225 American Rangers jumped off a British landing craft and ran to the bottom of these cliffs. Their mission was one of the most difficult and daring of the Invasion: to climb these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns. The Allies had been told that the mightiest of those guns were here, and they would be trained on the beaches to stop the Allied advance. Removing the guns was pivotal to the Normandy Invasion, which itself was pivotal to the reclaiming of Europe and the end of the war.

The Rangers looked up and saw the enemy soldiers at the edge of the cliffs shooting down at them with machine guns and throwing grenades. And the American Rangers began to climb. They shot rope ladders over the face of these cliffs and they

began to pull themselves up. And when one Ranger would fall another would take his place, and when one rope was cut a Ranger would grab another and begin his climb again. They climbed and shot back and held their footing; and in time the enemy pulled back; in time the Rangers held the cliffs; and soon, one by one, the Rangers pulled themselves over the top -- and in seizing the firm land at the top of these cliffs they began to seize back the continent of Europe.

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

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

I stand here today before the survivors of that battle. These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. These are the men who took the cliffs. These are the champions who helped free a continent; these are the heroes who helped end a war.

Gentlemen, I look at you, and I think I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "But we were just part of a bigger effort, and everyone was brave that day."

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

Do you remember Bill Millin of the 51st Scottish Highlanders? Forty years ago today, British troops were pinned down near a bridge outside Caen. They were waiting desperately

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

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

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

There was the impossible valor of the Poles, who threw themselves between the enemy and the rest of Europe as the Invasion took hold. And the unsurpassed courage of the Canadians, the only troops who knew exactly what they would face when they hit the beaches. Two years before, their countrymen had been slaughtered at Dieppe. They knew what awaited them here, but they would not be deterred, and once they hit Juno Beach they never looked back.

The men of Normandy were part of a roll call of honor, with

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

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

It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love. It was faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead -- or the next. It was the deep knowledge (and pray God we have not lost it) that there is a profound moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. They were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so they did not doubt their cause. And they were right not to doubt.

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

The Americans who fought here that morning knew that word of the Invasion was spreading through the darkness back home. And they knew in their hearts, though they could not know in fact,

that in Georgia they were filling the churches at 4 a.m., and in Kansas they were kneeling on their porches and praying, and in Philadelphia they were ringing the Liberty Bell.

Something else helped the men of D-Day. It was the rockhard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here; that God was an ally in this great cause. And, so, the night before the Invasion, when Colonel Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them: Do not bow your heads but look up so you can see God and ask His blessing in what we are about to do. And in another part of England that night General Mathew Ridgeway tossed on his cot and talked to his God and listened for the promise made to Joshua: "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

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

When the war was over there were lives to be rebuilt and governments to be returned to the people -- there were nations to be reborn and above all, there was a new peace to be assured. These were huge and daunting tasks. But the Allies summoned strength from the faith and belief and loyalty and love of those who fell here. And they rebuilt a new Europe together.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I tell you from my heart that we in the United States do not want war. We want to wipe from the face of the Earth the terrible weapons man now has in his hands. I tell you we are ready to seize that beachhead -- but there must be some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, that they will give up the ways of conquest. There must be a changing there that will allow us to turn our hope into action.

We will pray on forever that some day that changing will come. But for now -- and particularly today -- it is good and fitting for us to renew our commitment to each other, to our freedom, and to the alliance that protects it.

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

Here, in this place where the West stood together, let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for; let us say to them through our actions the words for which Mathew Ridgeway listened: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

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

Thank you all very much.

(Noonan/BE)
May 23, 1984
5:00 p.m.

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

We are here to mark that day in history when the Allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For 4 long years, much of Europe had been under a terrible shadow. Free nations had fallen, Jews cried out in the camps, millions cried out for liberation, ~~from the conquerors~~ Europe was enslaved, and the world waited for its rescue. ~~Here the~~ ^{here, in Normandy, the} rescue began. ~~Here on a lonely windswept point on the western~~ ^{Here the west stood, and fought against tyranny in a giant} undertaking unparalleled in human history. ~~shore of France.~~

~~We stand on a lonely windswept point on the northern shore of France.~~
~~As we stand here today, the air is soft and full of~~
As I speak, the air is soft and full of
sunlight, ~~and if we pause and listen we will hear the snap of the~~
~~flags and the click of cameras and the gentle murmur of people~~
~~come to visit a place of great sanctity and meaning.~~

But 40 years ago ^{at this moment} ~~today 40 years ago as I speak~~ the air was dense with smoke and the cries of men, the air was filled with the crack of rifle fire and the boom of cannons. ~~At~~ ^{At} ~~Before~~ dawn on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, 200 American Rangers jumped off a British landing craft and ran to the bottom of these cliffs. Their mission was one of the most difficult and daring of the Invasion: to climb these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns. The Allies had been told that ~~here~~ ^{the mightiest of those guns were here, and they would be} ~~were concentrated the mightiest of those guns, which would be~~ trained on the beaches to stop the Allied advance. Removing the guns was pivotal to the Normandy Invasion, which itself was pivotal to the reclaiming of Europe ^{and} ~~the~~ end of the war.

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

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

²²⁵ ~~Two hundred~~ came here. After ^a ~~1~~ ⁵ days of fighting only 90 could still bear arms.

I stand here today before ^{the} ~~62~~ survivors of that battle. These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. These are the men who took the cliffs. These are the champions who helped free a continent; these are the heroes who helped end a war.

Gentlemen, I look at you, and I think I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "But we were just part of a bigger effort, ^{and} and everyone was brave that day." ^P Everyone was. The

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

Do you remember Bill Millin of the 51st Scottish Highlanders?

~~There was Bill Millin of Scotland. The day of the Invasion,~~
Forty years ago today
British troops were pinned down near a bridge outside Caen. They

were ~~crouched against the cold gray ground~~ waiting desperately

for reinforcements, when suddenly they heard the sound of bagpipes wafting through the air. ~~Some of them thought it was a dream. amorphous as a dream. Some of~~

~~them thought it was.~~ But ~~the sound of those bagpipes came closer and louder,~~ and they looked up, ~~to see~~ Bill Millin ~~of the~~ ^{and there was} ^{with his bagpipes}

~~51st Scottish Highlanders~~ marching at the head of the

reinforcements, ignoring the smack of the bullets into the sand

around him. Lord Lovat was with him -- Lord Lovat of England,

~~leading~~ ~~marching along with his commandos, equally unconcerned at the~~ ~~enemy fire.~~

When he got to the bridge Lord Lovat calmly

announced, "Sorry I'm a few minutes late." As if he'd been

delayed by bad weather or a traffic jam. When in truth he'd been

~~just come from~~ ~~delayed by~~ the bloody fighting on Sword Beach, which he and his

men had just taken.

There was the young Frenchman, Michel de Vallavielle, who had been confined by the Germans in his home, ~~near Utah Beach.~~

When the Invasion began he defied the enemy patrols, broke the curfew, and ran ~~from his house~~ to the beach to tell the Allied troops where the enemy guns were hidden.

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

There was the impossible valor of the Poles, who threw themselves between the enemy and the rest of Europe as the Invasion took hold. And the unsurpassed courage of the Canadians, the only troops who knew exactly what they would face when they hit the beaches. Two years before, their countrymen had been slaughtered at Dieppe. They knew what awaited them here, but they would not be deterred, and once they hit Juno Beach they never ~~let go.~~ ^{looked back.}

~~The men of Normandy~~
~~All of these men~~ were part of a rollcall of honor, with names that ~~speak~~ ^{spoke} of a pride as bright as the colors they ~~were:~~ ^{bore:}

the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, ~~the Manitoba Grenadiers,~~ Poland's 24th Lancers, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the Yeomen of England's armoured divisions, the forces of Free France, the Regiment de Chars de Combat, the ~~101st~~ ^{82nd} Airborne. These names are written forever on this sand and on this wind, for truly these are men who "in their lives fought for life . . . and left the vivid air signed with their honor."

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

It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love. It was faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead -- or the next. It was the deep knowledge (and pray God we have not lost it) that there is a profound ⁶ moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. They were here to liberate, not to conquer,

and so they did not doubt their cause. And they were right not to doubt.

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

The Americans who fought here ^{that morning} ~~the morning of the Invasion~~ knew that word of ^{the invasion} ~~what was happening~~ was spreading through the darkness back home. And they knew in their hearts, though they could not know in fact, that ^{in Georgia} they were filling the churches ~~in Georgia~~ at 4 a.m., and ^{in Kansas} they were kneeling on their porches and praying, ~~in Kansas~~ and in Philadelphia they were ringing the Liberty Bell.

~~And there was another element that~~ ^{Something else} helped the men of D-Day.

It was the rockhard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here; that God was an ally in this great cause. And, so, the night before the Invasion, when Colonel Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them: Do not bow your heads, but look up so you can see God and ask His blessing in what we are about to do. And in another part of England that night General Mathew Ridgeway tossed on his cot and talked to his God and listened for the promise made to Joshua: "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

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

When the war was over there were lives to be rebuilt and governments to be returned to the people -- there were nations to be reborn and above all, there was a new peace to be assured. These were huge and daunting tasks. But the Allies summoned strength from the faith and belief and loyalty and love of those who fell here. And they rebuilt a new Europe together.

There was ^{first} a great reconciliation, not only of those who ~~had been enemies in~~ ^{had been enemies in} ~~fought on opposite sides in~~ the war, ^{also} but ^{of} those nations which had been torn for centuries by rivalries of territory and religion and power. ^{Those rivalries died on these beaches.} ~~Finally, with the end of World War II, the rivalries which had bedeviled Western Europe for centuries were~~ ~~interrupted.~~

Inspired by the ^{gallantry} ~~virtues~~ of the men who fought the war, the United States created the Marshall Plan ^{to help} ~~by which we helped~~ rebuild our allies and our former enemies. The Marshall Plan led to the Atlantic Alliance -- a great alliance that functions ^{to this day} as a shield for democracy and for prosperity.

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

Because of this, Allied forces still stand on this continent. But our armies are here only to protect and defend

democracy -- and never to take land that is not ours. The only land we hold is the graveyards where our heroes rest.

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

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

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

I tell you from my heart that we in the United States do not want war. We want to wipe from the face of the Earth the terrible weapons man now has in his hands. I tell you we are ready to seize that beachhead -- but there must be some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, that they will give up the ways of conquest. There must be a changing there that will allow us to turn our hope into action.

We will pray on forever that some day that changing will come. But for now -- and particularly today -- it is good and fitting for us to renew our commitment to each other, to our freedom, and to the alliance that protects it.

We are bound still by what bound us 40 years ago, bound by the same loyalties, ^{and} traditions and beliefs. We are bound by reality: The strength ~~and freedom~~ of America's allies is still vital to the future of the United States. And the American security guarantee ^{is still essential} ~~remains indispensable~~ to the continued freedom ~~and independence~~ of Europe's democracies. ^{The allies of 40 years ago} ~~We know, as we did~~ ^{are allies still.} ~~40 years ago,~~ that your destiny is our destiny, and your hopes are our hopes.

^{Here} ~~Together~~ in this place where the West stood together, let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions, that we understand what they died for; let us say to them, through our actions the words for which Mathew Ridgeway listened: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

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

Thank you all very much.

West Point Casey

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Should
~~Find~~ RR use Point du
Hoc

or Point du Hawk

(Point de Hawk)

should be try the French
pronunciation

Call Broc ED 12
Dep. Chief Hist. a 1st Hist.
~~272-0303~~

272 - 0243

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

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

We are here to mark that day in history when the Allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For 4 long years, much of Europe had been under a terrible shadow. Free nations had fallen, Jews cried out in the camps, millions cried out for liberation from the conquerors. Europe was enslaved, and the world waited for its rescue. Here the rescue began. Here the West stood, and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There was the impossible valor of the Poles, who threw themselves between the enemy and the rest of Europe as the Invasion took hold. And the unsurpassed courage of the Canadians, the only troops who knew exactly what they would face when they hit the beaches. The year before, their countrymen had been slaughtered at Dieppe. They knew what awaited them here, but they would not be deterred, and they hit Juno Beach and held it and would not let go.

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

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

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

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

It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love. It was faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead -- or the next. It was the deep knowledge (and pray God we have not lost it) that there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. They were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so they did not doubt their cause. And they were right not to doubt.

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

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

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

And there was another element that helped the men of D-Day. It was the rockhard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here; that God was an ally in this great cause. And, so, the night before the Invasion, when Colonel Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them: Do not bow your heads but look up so you can see God and ask His blessing in what we are about to do. And in another part of England General Mathew Ridgeway that same night lay on his cot and talked to his God and listened for the words spoken to Joshua: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Thank you all very much.

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

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

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

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

Thank you all very much.

Kim —
In case you
don't have this —
from the 82
Europe Trip.
Julie

The two Presidents met briefly at the Grand Trianon and then attended a reception for heads of delegation in the Salon de Famille. The President later attended a dinner for heads of delegation in the Salon de Jardin at the Grand Trianon.

The transcript was not received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for inclusion in last week's issue.

38th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion

*Remarks Commemorating D-Day,
June 5, 1982*

I bring to France greetings and best wishes from the American people. I carry their hopes for continued Western unity to secure a prosperous and lasting peace, and I've come to express our commitment to policies that will renew economic growth.

But today touches French and American memories in a special way. It brings to mind thoughts quite apart from the pressing issues being discussed at the economic summit in Versailles. On this day, 38 years ago, our two peoples were united in an epic struggle against tyranny.

In 1944, as World War II raged, the Allies were battling to regain their foothold on the continent. The French Resistance fought valiantly on, disrupting communications and sabotaging supply lines. But the Nazis held Europe in a stranglehold, and Field Marshal Rommel was building his Atlantic wall along France's coast.

Late the night of June 5th, as fog enshrouded the Normandy coastline, over 2,000 planes took off from English fields to drop soldiers by parachute behind enemy lines. By the early hours of June 6th, the massive allied armada, 5,000 ships, had begun to move across the cold and choppy water of the English Channel. D-Day had begun.

The code names—Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, and Sword—are now indelibly etched in history by the blood spilled on that 100-

mile stretch of beach. More than 150,000 allied troops stormed Normandy that day, and by dusk they had established beachheads at each of the five invasion points. The toll was high. More than 10,500 of our young men were either dead, wounded, or missing.

Today, endless rows of simple white crosses mark their seacoast graves. The rusty helmets still buried in the sand and the ships and tanks still lying off the shore are testaments to their sacrifices.

By the end of World War II, more than 60,000 Americans had been buried in France. Today, we remember them, honor them, and pray for them, but we also remember what they gave us.

D-Day was a success, and the Allies had breached Hitler's seawall. They swept into Europe, liberating towns and cities and countrysides, until the Axis powers were finally crushed. We remember D-Day because the French, British, Canadians, and Americans fought shoulder-to-shoulder for democracy and freedom—and won.

During the war, a gallant French leader, Charles de Gaulle, inspired his countrymen organizing and leading the free French forces. He entered Paris in triumph, liberating that city at the head of a column of allied troops, a victory made possible by the heroes of Normandy. "Nothing great will ever be achieved without great men, and men are great only if they're determined to be so," de Gaulle said.

Ours was a great alliance of free people determined to remain so. I believe it still is.

The invasion of Normandy was the second time this century Americans fought in France to free it from an aggressor. We're pledged to do so again if we must.

The freedom we enjoy today was secured by great men and at great cost. Today, let us remember their courage and pray for the guidance and strength to do what we must so that no generation is ever asked to make so great a sacrifice again.

Thank you very much.

Note: The President's remarks were taped on May 31 in the Library at the White House for use on French television.

COMMENTS ON PRESENT-DAY LIVES OF RANGERS
FROM MRS. LOMELL

Thomas Ryan - is a policeman in Chicago

Thomas Ruggiero - is a retired fireman - he was the Captain of the
Fire Department in Plymouth, Massachusetts

Dr. Thomas Petrick - was a medical doctor in the 5th Batallion - lives
in Derby, Vermont

DR BLOCK - Dr. Block, the doctor with D Company, was killed during
the invasion, but his son, who was 4 years old at his
death, is now a doctor and will be attending the ceremony
along with his family (including 2 grandchildren of the
first Dr. Block).

Jack Kuhn - is a retired policeman. He was the Police Chief of
Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Frank South, Phd - is now professor of physiology at the University
of Delaware. He was a medic under Dr. Block at the time
of the invasion and it appears that NBC has arranged for
him to meet with the young Dr. Block for the first time
in Normandy.

Ralph Gorinson - heads a sales company - is a former President of
the Ranger Batallions Association.

Mrs Rudder - is the widow of the commander at Point du Hoc. She
will be attending along with her daughter, Ann, and
her family (husband and one son). Mr. Rudder served
as President of Texas A&M and died in that position.

Bill Geitz - now repairs electrical equipment in Woodbury, New Jersey.
He is an amputee.

Harvey Koehning - is an electrical worker on oil wells in Louisiana

John Keating - retired customs officer in Weymouth, Massachusetts

Ted Lapres - attorney in New Jersey

Elmer Vermeer - known as "Dutch" is another past president of the
Rangers Association and has been back to Normandy
several times. He has served as ~~is~~ Governor in Iowa *and*
as state legislator. He's now a farmer in *last to Pella, Iowa (He grows corn & beans)*

WILLIAM ELROD PETTY - was a Southerner going into the Rangers. For
many years now he has run a camp for ghetto children in
the hilly country of New York State. He was mentioned
in THE LONGEST DAY.

SUGGESTIONS OF THEMES FOR PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS AT NORMANDY BEACHES

A. LIBERATION

We came to Normandy forty years ago to liberate. With our allies, who remain today our loyal friends, we landed on these beaches, buried our dead and fought our way across Europe. American soldiers did not come here to conquer, nor to occupy. Nor even to stay. Our mission: was the liberation of Europe - and then to return home.

B. UNITY

1. It was not sheer luck or accident that the joint efforts of our allies led us all to victory. Our success ten months after this landing was not because of a promissory note or a pact of cooperation papers that we signed. The comraderie with which we fought, and then later the concerted effort to defend the peace was made possible by the wealth of our shared values. We were--we are--nations dedicated to democratic principles of government. We hold that freedom and the dignity of man to be the inalienable right of our citizens. And we believe that these principles of democracy and freedom and dignity are fundamental to the aspirations of all men.

2. The American recognition that defending Western Europe is also the defense of our own country marked a revolutionary change in our foreign policy. It irrevocably extended our destinities and the borders of our security far beyond our natural frontiers. Maintaining an American military force in Europe during these last four decades has served to underscore the common destiny that the United States shares with Europe.

3. For Europeans too, the concept of the Atlantic Alliance marked revolutionary change. For nearly a thousand years, nations battled one another in this part of the world--for political or material gain, over religious differences. The allied unity demonstrated on these very beaches and transformed a few years later into the Atlantic Alliance signaled the burying of long-seated enmities. Differences between these nations would no longer be fought and re-fought on battlefields.

4. The importance to us of Europe goes far beyond the defense of our mutual security interests. Europeans and Americans in these forty years of peace^s and prosperity continue to share a culture that has enriched us beyond our economic prosperity. Ideas cross the Atlantic so quickly these days, and in both directions that it is difficult to fathom from which side they originated.

NOT
M I

AT

RECONCILIATION WITH ADVERSARIES

1. The Alliance is an open, not an exclusive association: any European nation who shared our values and was prepared to defend our hard-gained freedom could participate. Our former adversaries on this very beach forty years ago are joined with us today in the defense of a free and democratic way of life.

2. The reconciliation of nations that we now enjoy, nations that were once locked in opposition on the battlefield--is an extraordinary occurrence. It is a triumph by Europeans with a vision. They were men who foresaw a Europe united by peace and prosperity and shared ideas. Jean Monnet, Robert Schumann, Alcide de Gasperi, Winston Churchill, Konrad Adenauer were all men truly willing to turn their nations' swords into ploughshares. Americans of the time, Harry S. Truman, General George Marshall, Dwight D. Eisenhower supported these European efforts. Today, I and the people of the United States continue to support European efforts to enhance their peace, prosperity and security.

UNITY AND RECONCILIATION FOR THE FUTURE

1. Our differences--and in all free associations there are differences--let us continue to settle in a spirit of mutual respect. We will disagree with Europeans from time-to-time;

W J 4 21

Europeans will disagree from time-to-time among themselves. But we are all in profound agreement that peace in the western world is indivisible. Our triumphs in Normandy were among the first victories of allied unity; they must serve to remind us that sacrifice and discipline are still needed to defend our freedom.

2. Let us not take one another for granted. Let us not squander our precious capital accumulated during these forty years of peace and prosperity. It is the unprecedented resource from which our children and our children's children will continue to draw so that they too can live in peace.

3. There is a larger reconciliation still to be made--that between East and West. Let us maintain our unity in the defense of our freedom. Yet at the same time, let us hold our association of democratic governments open to all Europe's nations--small and large--in the hope that one day the aspirations of all Europeans will be reconciled in peace, prosperity, freedom and human dignity. (Perhaps a quotation from the Gettysburg Address can be added here.)

Drafted: J.L.Shub/P — STATE DEPT.
Approved: G.B. Hleman

Taps

Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake,
from the hill, from the sky.
All is well, safe-ly rest, God is nigh.

Thanks and praise for our days, 'neath the sun,
'neath the stars, 'neath the sky.
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

-Rukard Hurd

words c. Penn Military College
daylight version approved by Lady Baden-Powell

from Junior Girl Scout Handbook
Girl Scouts of U.S.A., 1963.

KW

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

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

We are here to mark that day in history when the (Allied armies) joined in battle to reclaim this (c)ontinent to liberty. For 4 long years, much of Europe had been under a terrible shadow. Free nations had fallen, Jews cried out in the camps, millions cried out for liberation. Europe was enslaved, and the world waited for its rescue. Here, in Normandy, the rescue began. Here the West stood, and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history.

We stand on a lonely, windswept point on the northern shore of France. As I speak, the air is soft and full of sunlight. But 40 years ago at this moment, the air was dense with smoke and the cries of men, the air was filled with the crack of rifle fire and the boom of cannons. At dawn on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, 225 American Rangers jumped off a British (landing craft) and (ran) ^{scrambled} to the bottom of these cliffs. Their mission was one of the most difficult and daring of the Invasion: to climb these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns. The Allies had been told that the mightiest of those guns were here, and they would be trained on the beaches to stop the Allied advance.

The Rangers looked up and saw the enemy soldiers at the edge of the cliffs shooting down at them with machine guns and throwing grenades. And the American Rangers began to climb. They shot rope ladders over the face of these cliffs and they began to pull themselves up. And when one Ranger would fall another would take his place, and when one rope was cut a Ranger

would grab another and begin his climb again. They climbed and shot back and held their footing; and in time the enemy pulled back; in time the Rangers held the cliffs; and soon, one by one, the Rangers pulled themselves over the top -- and in seizing the firm land at the top of these cliffs they began to seize back the continent of Europe.

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

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

I stand here today before the survivors of that battle. These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. These are the men who took the cliffs. These are the champions who helped free a continent; these are the heroes who helped end a war.

Gentlemen, I look at you and I think of the words of Stephen Spender's poem. You are men who in your "lives fought for life . . . and left the vivid air signed with your honor."

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

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

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

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

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

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

There was the impossible valor of the Poles, who threw themselves between the enemy and the rest of Europe as the Invasion took hold. And the unsurpassed courage of the Canadians, the only troops who knew exactly what they would face when they hit the beaches. Two years before, their countrymen had been slaughtered at Dieppe. They knew what awaited them here, but they would not be deterred, and once they hit Juno Beach they never looked back.

The men of Normandy were part of a roll call of honor, with names that spoke of a pride as bright as the colors they bore: the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, Poland's 24th Lancers, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the 2nd Ranger Battalion, the Yeomen of England's armoured divisions, the forces of Free France, the Regiment de Chars de Combat, the Screaming Eagles . . .

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

It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love. It was faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead -- or the next. It was the deep knowledge (and pray God we have not lost it) that there is a profound moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. They were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so they did not doubt their cause. And they were right not to doubt.

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

The Americans who fought here that morning knew that word of the Invasion was spreading through the darkness back home. And they knew in their hearts, though they could not know in fact, that in Georgia they were filling the churches at 4 a.m., and in

Kansas they were kneeling on their porches and praying, and in Philadelphia they were ringing the Liberty Bell.

Something else helped the men of D-Day. It was the rockhard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here; that God was an ally in this great cause. And, so, the night before the Invasion, when Colonel Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them: Do not bow your heads but look up so you can see God and ask His blessing in what we are about to do. And in another part of England that night General Mathew Ridgeway tossed on his cot and talked to his God and listened for the promise made to Joshua: "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

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

When the war was over there were lives to be rebuilt and governments to be returned to the people -- there were nations to be reborn and above all, there was a new peace to be assured. These were huge and daunting tasks. But the Allies summoned strength from the faith and belief and loyalty and love of those who fell here. And they rebuilt a new Europe together.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I tell you from my heart that we in the United States do not want war. We want to wipe from the face of the Earth the terrible weapons man now has in his hands. I tell you we are ready to seize that beachhead -- but there must be some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, that they will give up the ways of conquest. There must be a changing there that will allow us to turn our hope into action.

We will pray forever that some day that changing will come. But for now -- and particularly today -- it is good and fitting for us to renew our commitment to each other, to our freedom, and to the alliance that protects it.

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

Here, in this place where the West stood together, let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for; let our actions say to them the words for which Mathew Ridgeway listened: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

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

Thank you all very much.

(Noonan/BE)
May 23, 1984
5:00 p.m.

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

We are here to mark that day in history when the Allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For 4 long years, much of Europe had been under a terrible shadow. Free nations had fallen, Jews cried out in the camps, millions cried out for liberation from the conquerors. Europe was enslaved, and the world waited for its rescue. Here the rescue began. Here on a lonely windswept point on the (western) *NORTHERN* shore of France.

Germany entered war in 1939 - started Poland Campaign -

1938
Czechoslovakia
Poland, Battle
States, Denmark,
Norway, Finland,
Belgium, Luxembourg,
Netherlands (1940) - till
Europe in the 20th
Century - Robert
A. Heitler pp. 923-44

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

But 40 years ago today -- 40 years ago as I speak -- the air was dense with smoke and the cries of men, the air was filled with the crack of rifle fire and the boom of cannons. (Before) *at* dawn on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, (200 American Rangers jumped off a British (landing craft) and *scrambled* ran to the bottom of these cliffs). Their mission was one of the most difficult and daring of the Invasion: to *SCALE* (climb) these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns. The Allies had been told that here were concentrated the mightiest of those guns, which would be trained on the beaches to stop the Allied advance. Removing the guns was pivotal to the Normandy Invasion, which itself was pivotal to the reclaiming of Europe, the end of the war.

Draft schedule - w/h
address office
"I climbed the
cliffs with the Rangers"
Sgt. Elv. Post #11948
P. 18

JUNE 6, 1944
JUNE 6, 1984
MEMORIAL TO
NORMANDY
BY
SEN. ROBERT
1982

2 155-mm guns
were Target #1
"I Climbed the Cliffs"
P. 18

?

*1/16/68
DAR by Committee
Reynolds p. 256*

*I climbed the
Cliffs, p. 19*

X

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

*The Lowest Day
p. 232*

XX

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

*225 per
Ryan
230 per
Nodenfield*

X

^{more than} Two hundred ^{and twenty-five} came here. After ² days of fighting only 90 could still bear arms.

*The Lowest Day
p. 232
XX*

*Jim Kuhn
FINANCE 5/22/84*

I stand here today before 62 survivors of that battle. These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. These are the men who took the cliffs. These are the champions who helped free a continent; these are the heroes who helped end a war.

Gentlemen, I look at you, and I think I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "But we were just part of a bigger effort . . . and everyone was brave that day. Everyone was. The

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

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

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

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

P. 242
P. 253
RYAN
pp. 293-4

Diary

ARMIES IN
WORLD WAR
P. 75

There was the impossible valor of the Poles, who threw themselves between the enemy and the rest of Europe as the Invasion took hold. And the unsurpassed courage of the Canadians, the only troops who knew exactly what they would face when they hit the beaches. Two years before, their countrymen had been slaughtered at Dieppe. They knew what awaited them here, but they would not be deterred, and once they hit Juno Beach they never let go.

94.5% casualties
2nd Canadian Div.
landed at Dieppe on
Aug. 1942 to suffer
appalling casualties
3rd Div. headed for
Normandy, June 1944
6 ARMs, p. 120
ibid; pp. 139-142

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

most were killed
see 6 arms
p. 174
RSF - did not land
on D-Day - 6 ARMs
p. 171
101st Airborne
6 ARMs; p. 336
Step 1 of
Spence's
who

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

It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love. It was faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead -- or the next. It was the deep knowledge (and pray God we have not lost it) that there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. They were here to liberate, not to conquer,

Alison sought to
obtain - Books
History of U.S. Army

Royal W. Rifles; Manitoba
Grenadiers -
6 ARMs; p. 114

What beach visible
in "D-Day" Nov 2

and so they did not doubt their cause. And they were right not to doubt.

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

X The Americans who fought here the morning of the Invasion knew that word of what was happening was spreading through the darkness back home. And they knew in their hearts, though they could not know in fact, that ^(who?) they were filling the churches in Georgia at 4 a.m., and they were kneeling on their porches and praying in Kansas, and in Philadelphia they were ringing the Liberty Bell.

Landing broadcast at 9:33 a.m. June 6 from London

And there was another element that helped the men of D-Day. It was the rockhard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here; that God was an ally in this great cause. And, so, the night before the Invasion, when Colonel Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them: Do not bow your heads but look up so you can see God and ask His blessing in what we are about to do.

X Y And in another part of England that night General (Mathew) Ridgeway tossed on his cot and talked to his God and listened for the promise made to Joshua: "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Joshua Chapter 1 v. 5

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

When the war was over there were lives to be rebuilt and governments to be returned to the people -- there were nations to be reborn and above all, there was a new peace to be assured.

These were huge and daunting tasks. But the Allies summoned strength from the faith and belief and loyalty and love of those who fell here. And they rebuilt a new Europe together.

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

why!!!

Inspired by the virtues of the men who fought the war, the United States created the Marshall Plan -- by which we helped rebuild our allies and our former enemies. The Marshall Plan led to the Atlantic Alliance -- a great alliance that functions as a shield for democracy and for prosperity.

Despite
In spite of our great efforts and our great successes, not all of what followed the end of the war was happy, or planned. Some of the countries that had been liberated were lost. The great sadness of that fact echoes down to our own time in the streets of Poland and Czechoslovakia and Hungary. (The Soviet troops that came to the center of this continent would not leave when peace came.) They are there to this day, uninvited, unwanted, but still unyielding almost 40 years after the war ended.

Because of this, Allied forces still stand on this continent. But our armies are here only to protect and defend

democracy -- and never to take land that is not ours. The only land we hold is the graveyards where our heroes rest.

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

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

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

I tell you from my heart, that we in the United States do not want war. We want to wipe from the face of the Earth the terrible weapons man now has in his hands. I tell you, we are ready to seize that beachhead -- but there must be some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, that they will give up the ways of conquest. There must be a changing there that will allow us to turn our hope into action.

We will pray on forever that some day that changing will come. But for now -- and particularly today -- it is good and fitting for us to renew our commitment to each other, to our freedom, and to the alliance that protects it.

We are bound still by what bound us 40 years ago, bound by the same loyalties and traditions and beliefs. We are bound by reality: The strength and freedom of America's allies is still vital to the future of the United States. And the American (security guarantee) remains indispensable to the continued freedom and independence of Europe's democracies. We know, as we did 40 years ago, that your destiny is our destiny, and your hopes are our hopes.

X Together, in this place where the West stood together, let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for; let us say to them through our actions the words for which Mathew Ridgeway listened: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

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

Thank you all very much.

MEMORANDUM OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

NBC - taking these

YOU WERE CALLED BY- YOU WERE VISITED BY-

OF (Organization)

PLEASE PHONE FTS AUTOVON

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Thomas Ryan - pediatrician in Chicago
Thomas Ruggiero - ret. fireman Capt of Dept in Plymouth Mass

Dr. Thomas Betrick Med. Doctor in 5th Battalion Derby, Vermont

RECEIVED BY DATE TIME
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MEMORANDUM OF CALL

D Compard

Previous editions usable

TO:

Dr. Block - Dr. W/ D. Compard
2 year old son whom he was killed - his doctor son is going over now w/ family + 2 grandchildren

OF (Organization)

PLEASE PHONE FTS AUTOVON

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Jack Howard Kuhns retired police Chief Altoona
Frank South - prof. of Physiology U of Delaware
PhD - was in med school in Boston D-1947

RECEIVED BY DATE TIME
63-110 NSN 7540-00-634-4018 STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-81)
Prescribed by GSA
☆ GPO : 1983 O - 381-529 (305) FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

MEMORANDUM OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

Total number is 137-

YOU WERE CALLED BY- YOU WERE VISITED BY-

OF (Organization)

PLEASE PHONE FTS AUTOVON

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

one daughter & husband and a grandson
Margaret She has son

RECEIVED BY DATE TIME

63-110 NSN 7540-00-634-4018 STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-81)
Prescribed by GSA
☆ GPO : 1983 O - 381-529 (305) FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

Circle of multi-punctured areas
Curtain

we have made with the light

some of them

Point du oe

Point du Hoe
Siam house

WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

Finances

FT. MONROE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Point du Hoe

Eisenhower

Point du Hoe

Point du hoe

none official

TAPS

we have words written to fit the notes

strongly suggest they are part

Assoc. of mil. general since
Civil War

Official Army Book Green Book
Point du Hoc Ser
S ARMY IN
W W II

Cross Channel Attack
by Gordon Harrison

28 f 45

12557.

This is great!
The, B

(Noonan) 139
May 21, 1984
1:30 p.m.

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

x We are here to mark that day in history when the allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For 4 long years, much of Europe had been under a terrible shadow. Free nations had fallen, Jews cried out in the camps, millions cried out for liberation from the conquerors. Europe was enslaved, and the world waited for its rescue. Here the rescue began. Here the West stood, and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history.

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

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

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

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

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

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

8000
Words are hollow next to such deeds, and the valor of these men is impossible to describe. But we know that 200 came here, and by the end of two days of fighting only 90 could still bear arms.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There was the impossible valor of the Poles, who threw themselves between the enemy and the rest of Europe as the Invasion took hold. And the unsurpassed courage of the Canadians, the only troops who knew exactly what they would face when they hit the beaches. The year before, their countrymen had been slaughtered at Dieppe. They knew what awaited them here, but they would not be deterred, and they hit Juno Beach and held it and would not let go.

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

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

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

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

It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love. It was faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead -- or the next. It was the deep knowledge (and pray God we have not lost it) that there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. They were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so they did not doubt their cause. And they were right not to doubt.

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

devised by man. They loved liberty and they were happy to fight against tyranny. And they knew the people of their countries were behind them and supporting them. ^{of} The British soldiers knew this when they pushed off from England on the night of June 5th. The Invasion was still a secret and there were to be no big goodbyes for the townspeople who saw them off ⁶⁶⁶ but as the soldiers departed they could see the people crying as they said farewell. The American soldiers knew in their hearts, though they could not know in fact, that when word of the Invasion spread throughout America, people filled the churches at 4 a.m., and families dressed in their nightclothes knelt and prayed on their porches, and in Philadelphia they did what they do to mark the most momentous occasions of our national life: They rang the Liberty Bell. Bells rang out all across America that night.

And there was another element that helped the men of D-Day. It was the rockhard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here; that God was an ally in this great cause. And, so, the night before the invasion, when Colonel Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them: Do not bow your heads but look up so you can see God and ask His blessing in what we are about to do. And in another part of England General Mathew Ridgeway that same night lay on his cot and talked to his God and listened for the words spoken to Joshua: " I will not fail thee nor forget thee. "

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

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

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

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

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

as a shield for democracy and ~~a shield~~ for prosperity, a great alliance that acknowledges that Europe's destiny is ^{America's} ~~our~~ destiny.

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

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

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

We live in difficult times. It would be a wonderful thing if today, 40 years after the Normandy Invasion, we could say that tyranny was forever defeated on these shores. But history did ^(wouldn't encourage it be building from Central America conclusion)

not grant us the right to make that claim. There are those who say that the West is the great destabilizing force in the world today, that America is the reason we have not achieved peace, that America is the warmonger and America is the problem.

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

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

I tell you from my heart that we in the United States do not want war. ~~I tell you from my heart that~~ we want to wipe from the face of the Earth the terrible weapons man now has in his hands. I tell you we are ready to seize that beachhead -- but there must be some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, that they will give up the ways of conquest. There must be a changing there that will allow us to turn our hope into action.

We will pray on forever that some day that changing will come. But for now -- and particularly today -- it is good and fitting for us to renew our commitment to each other, ^{to our freedom} and to our alliance, ^{that protects it.}

We are bound still by what bound us 40 years ago, bound by the same loyalties and traditions and beliefs. We are bound by reality: The strength and freedom of America's allies is still vital to the future of the United States. And the American security guarantee remains indispensable to the continued freedom

and independence of Europe's democracies. We know, as we did 40 years ago, that our future is your future, and our hopes are your hopes.

Together, on this day 40 years after the Allies seized back a continent to liberty, let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for and we honor those ideals no less than they. Let us say to them through our actions the words for which Mathew Ridgeway listened:

W I will not fail thee nor ^{safe} forget thee. "

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

Thank you all very much.