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(DOLAN)

Julie
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS

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

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

JC
new PS 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRIVATE ZANATTA'S DAUGHTER SAYS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#

Debby Brumber

May want to work - Enters

- Flight attendant at United Airlines
- She's about 24 years old.

Her company is sending her - United Airlines - photo of D-Day landing

She is absolutely OK

(415) 574-1432

Two women who gave of themselves; first their lives
Red cross nurse's volunteer
Mrs. Reagan put flowers on graves of 2 women Elizabeth Redden & Elizabeth

TIM Cogle

Normandy

not buried there

RE: Omaha

advance

RR walks by some gravesites before ^{wrath saying at} Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.
try to find someone linked to President among 150 he

a Reagan is buried there - on mater list -

2 photos engraved in the memorial

This ^{em} battle shore, portal of freedom is forever hallowed by the ideals, the valor, and the sacrifices of our fellow countrymen

on front of memorial

GARDEN of the Landing in Action

- Engraved in Monument Area on other side

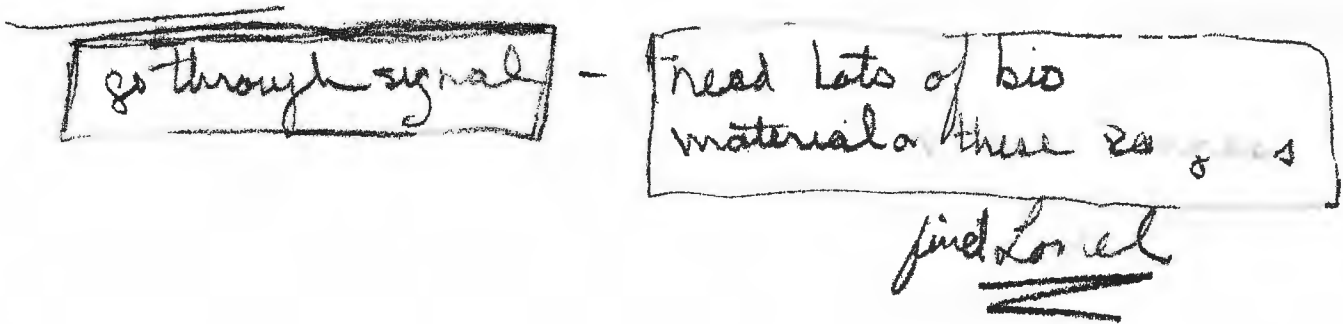
To them we owe the high resolve that the cause for which they died shall live.

She asked to go back to some gravesite
The memorial like letters
study's guide page.

will Dealm
14 names

Heli in - go to vis. center wait changed in
middle of line. Don't pay separate - walk 100 yds.
to "back" 1 or 2 as possible. get back with car
back to Vis. Cent. - wait for mother. Both
P. as walk down to the "middle" - la. seat -
tap 1 - "Mat'l. thing" - (no spec' by state d.) RR
sp. l.

U. S. ...



Co. F. W. C. only volunteer women's
President

geared toward
Preventing Child Abuse - Pres. Special Project

Point du Hoc - 6-70

to beach
30 min
40 Point du Hoc

60 Rangers - will be there

+ at least 100 other people - may be up to 300 people

2nd Echelon of 1100+ veterans

Going to limit it to Veterans - general public limited

- Free of cost - must not give out any addresses before

230 + must start
be very private, personal info

address - larger but address

He'll have to talk to them - all in place - he'll be on

concrete base on higher portions of territory

Humble wants to do an inventory

***** Ask to see 1st Lt. Col. Rudder - wife of General Rudder in remarks

Lt. Col. Rudder led Rangers

W - survived attack
2. studied about attack later

Phil Rivers will be there -

are bring out what they can do to do -

Maha Beach - 3-5 minutes -

about same length as PduH - site of American army camp where

1000+ Americans were buried
Mitterand - ~~3000~~ 5000 - 1st VP's (later)

Vietnam, 3000-4000 - less than 5,000

5 min - outside of government -

Mitterand less than
minute courtesy

Will other national
forces b. there
in audience too?

Is there a flag nearby?

Double Check

Have to
get the
plague unvisited
L

SPEECH Omaha Beach

Delivery Date June 6, 1984

Writer Dolan

Researcher White

Due to Ben _____

Due to SS _____

Due to RR _____

INSCRIPTIONS AT OMAHA BEACH CEMETARY FOR POSSIBLE
USE IN REMARKS

"This embattled shore portal of freedom is forever hallowed by the ideals, the valor, and the sacrifices of our fellow countrymen."

(inscription in memorial where The President will be speaking)

"To these we owe the high resolve that the cause for which they died should live."

(inscription at the Garden of the Missing in Action on the other side of the memorial from where The President will be standing)

ALSO PER TIM COYLE

We need to remember that Mrs. Reagan was here two years ago and visited the graves of two women buried here. Apparently she would like to revisit those graves (it's unlikely to possible) again this visit. We just need to recall that although women were not fighting during the invasion, they were involved in the action and at least two were killed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phil Rivers

July 14, 1918 crashed - inquis deputy
France - on hilltop - immediately
Germans informed family he died & as
given a proper burial

Quentin Roosevelt

only exception of NWI or WWII
Cimetaries

WWI aviator

comradship among aviators
family desired he be buried w/ brother & done through
municipal channels - Roosevelt's burial exchange
notion formation - memorial day honored by celebration

General Leslie McNair

Lt. Gen in WWII - local officials 1955

Operation Fortitude - in charge of a phantom army in subterfuge
operation - accidentally killed by our own
bombers in St. Lo - Perrier Road - bombing mishap
late July, 1944 (July 26)

(whatson?)(McNair's family)

Theodore R. Jr.

fought at Cantigny, 1st all-American
offensive in WWI

1st Division

African Campaign

statue - Spirit of American Youth - hired sculptor
to do statue for that (Cantigny park)

senior general officers were expended for

HARRY TRUMAN -

33 sets of brothers

Sgt. Ted
with KA - landed at
10 am D-Day - 37
ceremonies at Normandy
30-year vet of
U.S. Army
Bill
Supreme at Mons, Belgium
interp. for gen. Eisenhower

Sgt. Ehlers, Medal of Honor recipient
received medal on 9th - landed on D-Day -
simultaneously w/ brother who was killed off beach
the living brother received the medal of honor for action
days later
He was sent for dedication in 1956

June 9

Medal of Honor - June 11

Lt. Jimmy Monteith } 1st Div

Sgt John Pender, Jr } 1st Div

Pfc. Barrett - only surviving Medal of Honor winner for D-Day
only one not to receive posthumously
(Gen Roosevelt - later)

anonymous
American woman - has
purchased 307 carnations
for unknown graves each
memorial day [about \$300]

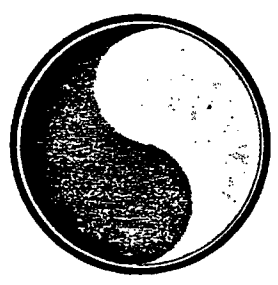
Sgt. De Jongio - June 11
Sgt. DeGrapper - 82nd Airborn
Col.

0573

UX
220
Nov. 29
E 95
copy 4

29 LET'S GO!

A History of the 29th Infantry
Division in World War II



By JOSEPH H. EWING

WASHINGTON
INFANTRY JOURNAL PRESS

Chapter 3: Omaha Beach

TEN MILES EAST from the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula, on the Normandy coast between the towns of Grandcamp and Port-en-Bessin, lay a crescent-shaped stretch of seven thousand yards of sandy beach, flanked at each end by cliffs. In the years before the war this beach had been one of the less pretentious of France's summer resorts. A promenade road extended along the sands, and picturesque summer cottages clustered at the base of the abruptly rising bluffs, atop which the little village of Vierville-sur-Mer reposed sleepily in the wild charm of the Normandy shore, ignorant of the destiny which history was to impose upon it.

Vierville was a quiet, unimportant farming town which derived what renown it possessed from the attraction it held for French artists, to whom it had become a favored haunt. With its grainfields, apple orchards, cattle and pasture lands it could claim no distinction from a hundred other Norman villages, and yet it was to become a major objective on the map of the greatest invasion in the history of war.

By 1943 the beach below Vierville and the neighboring town of St. Laurent-sur-Mer had become, in a sudden wartime transition, a section of the great Atlantic Wall of Adolf Hitler's Fortress Europe, guarded with every weapon and obstacle of modern military ingenuity. When this sandy crescent was finally selected as one of the targets for the Allied invasion of France the planners named it "Omaha Beach."

On that portion of Omaha Beach assigned to the assaulting 29th Division the ground rose abruptly from a narrow tidal shelf and grew into dominating bluffs, in places as much as 170 feet above the water. Down on the beach firm sands extended seaward from the high-water line in a gradual slope for approximately three hundred yards. Strong tides washed across this beach, and at their height they covered the low-tide mark with eighteen feet of water.

Shingle covered a narrow strip of the tidal shelf at the high-water line, this egg sized stone forming at places into little ridges and hollows which would afford some protection from flat-trajectory fire to a man in the prone position.

Extending the length of the western half of the beach, and providing both a protection and an obstacle to a landing force was a sea wall, built originally to protect the promenade road from the waves. Although the wall had been improved by the Ger-

mans into a concrete obstacle of heights varying up to twelve feet it was to afford the only strong cover on the narrow beach shelf short of the bluffs.

The defense of Omaha Beach had been planned and prepared with typical German thoroughness. Conforming to Marshal Erwin Rommel's defensive formula, the Germans sited their weapons and planted their obstacles with the aim of annihilating the invader in the sea and on the beaches, and of denying him even a temporary toe-hold on the continent.

Between the high and low-water marks was an elaborate system of underwater obstacles forming three distinct bands that ran the length of the beach. The first band, farthest out, approximately 250 yards from the high-water mark, consisted of a series of steel gate-like structures about ten feet high, known to the Invasion planners as "Element C" Obstacles. They were irregularly spaced in a pattern that no landing craft could avoid. If a boat attempted to come ashore through this band at high tide it would ram its bottom on one of the elements and explode a Teller mine lashed to the steel uprights.

Closer to the tidal flat lay the center band of obstacles which consisted of a series of heavy logs irregularly spaced and driven into the sand at an angle so that the tops of the logs, on which mines had been fastened, would face seaward. A landing craft striking one of these mines would set it off.

The obstacles of the final band some 130 yards from the high-water line were "hedgehogs." Each hedgehog consisted of three or more steel rails, crossed at the center and strongly embedded in the sands, designed to puncture the bottom of any landing craft attempting to ride over it.

On the beach shelf landward of the high-water mark the Germans had buried thousands of mines and had placed much barbed wire.

Up in the face of the bluffs and cliffs the enemy held observation over the entire beach. Machine guns (in both concrete pillboxes and open positions) and mortars formed the basis of the beach's defensive fires, together with 75mm and 88mm guns in concrete casemates and open field emplacements. These beach defenses were a series of strongpoints, most of them built around pillboxes, with open gun pits and trenchworks and underground quarters, all protected by minefields and barbed wire.

On the 29th's portion of the beach the strongest



Aerial photo of obstacles on Omaha Beach, taken May 19, two weeks before the invasion. Germans working on the beach run for cover at the approach of the plane.

defenses were near the natural beach exits—two draws which led up from the beach to the blufftop, one of them near Vierville, the other at les Moulins. Possession of these exits was a vital element in the beach defense for while assaulting foot troops could climb the bluffs, heavy equipment, like tanks, guns and trucks would be able to get off the beach only over the roads that led up the draws. Across these exit avenues the Germans had constructed concrete walls, antitank ditches and roadblocks of all types. For a quarter mile from the beach the areas on both sides of the roads were heavily mined.

Three miles west of Omaha Beach above the rocky cliffs at Pointe du Hoc (see map 4, page 58) was a battery of six 155mm guns, while still farther west at the town of Maisy were four more 155s, all capable of firing on the beach, and even far out to sea.

The defense of Omaha Beach was entrusted to a reinforced battalion of the 726th Infantry of the German 716th Division. Intelligence reports had indicated that Russian and Polish soldiers formed possibly fifty per cent of this defending force, which was estimated at between eight hundred and one thousand strong. Most of these troops were on the

actual beach defenses, with no local reserves available as an effective counterattacking force.

Any major counterattack that might develop was expected to come from the veteran German 352d Infantry Division, a crack outfit, hardened by battle experience on the Russian front, and quartered in the St. Lô area, twenty miles inland. With local transport one regiment of this division was believed capable of reaching the beachhead by the afternoon of D-day.

Omaha Beach was one of the five beaches on which the Allied assault of Normandy was to be made. Adjoining it on the left was the British-Canadian zone, with its Sword, Juno and Gold Beaches, extending from Port-en-Bessin eastward to the Orne River. Twelve miles beyond Omaha Beach's right flank was Utah Beach, a stretch of five thousand yards on the east coast of the Cotentin Peninsula, generally east of Ste-Mère-Église. (Map 6, page 70.)

The assault of the beaches in the British-Canadian zone was assigned to the British 3d and 50th Divisions and the Canadian 3d Division. In the American zone the 4th Division was to land in assault at Utah Beach, with the 1st and 29th Divisions coming ashore at Omaha Beach. Before light on D-day the



A sweep of the beach, looking northwest from the 1st Division's zone. Bluffs and cliffs in the 29th Division's area are seen at the far end of the curve.

101st and 82d Airborne Divisions were to put down inland by parachute and glider in the Ste-Mère-Église and Carentan areas, while the British 6th Airborne Division was to land in an area east of Caen.

THE ASSAULT PLAN

The 1st and 29th Divisions each contributed one regimental combat team to the initial assault against Omaha Beach. The 116th Regimental Combat Team was assigned a stretch of beach from the cliffs on the western end eastward to a point some five hundred yards east of les Moulins exit, while the 1st Division's 16th Regimental Combat Team was to assault the eastern half of the beach. In order that control of the initial landings would not be split between two division headquarters the 116th was attached to the 1st Division, with the 1st Division's 26th Infantry being attached to the 29th. (These attachments reverted to parent control on D plus 1.)

The 116th was to land with two battalions forward, the 2d Battalion on the left with three companies abreast, the 1st Battalion on the right, with companies in column. This was to put E, F, G and A Companies in the first assault wave, which was scheduled to land at H plus 1 minute. Each of these companies of the 116th was organized into six boat teams of approximately thirty men each. The companies were to retain their boat-team organization when they landed, with the men moving forward in their assigned sectors to assault the German positions.

It was expected that within three hours the enemy

would be driven from his beach positions and that the beach exits would be opened for vehicular traffic. The 116th's 1st Battalion was then to capture Vierville and join the Rangers in a movement paralleling the coastal highway to the Vire estuary. It was then to move on Isigny and establish contact with VII Corps west of the Vire. The 2d Battalion was to take St. Laurent and the high ground southwest of that town. The 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve, was to advance through Longueville and occupy the high ground 2,500 yards west of that town and be prepared to advance to Isigny. V Corps planned to hold the 115th offshore initially, ready for employment in the zone of either the 116th or the 1st Division's 16th Infantry. The 175th, V Corps reserve, was not to land until D plus 1.

The 2d and 5th Ranger Battalions, attached to the 116th, were assigned special missions. One company of the 2d Rangers was to land west of the Vierville draw, at the extreme right flank of Omaha Beach and assault the German positions at Pointe de la Percée, while three companies of this same battalion were landing three miles west of Omaha Beach in a separate operation against the German batteries on the cliffs at Pointe du Hoe. The remaining two companies of the battalion and the entire 5th Ranger Battalion were also to land below Pointe du Hoe if the assault against that position was reported successful by H plus 30 minutes. Lacking such a report they would land with the 116th between the Vierville and les Moulins draws and advance to the Pointe by land.



29th Division troops aboard the transport en route to Normandy

It was not expected that the underwater obstacles would be a source of much danger or inconvenience to the leading waves, since their landing was scheduled for low tide when all of the obstacles would be exposed and visible. However, it was known that the tide would rise quickly after H-hour and cover the obstacles, thus creating a situation that would imperil the landing of subsequent waves, which would have to come through or over them before reaching shallow water.

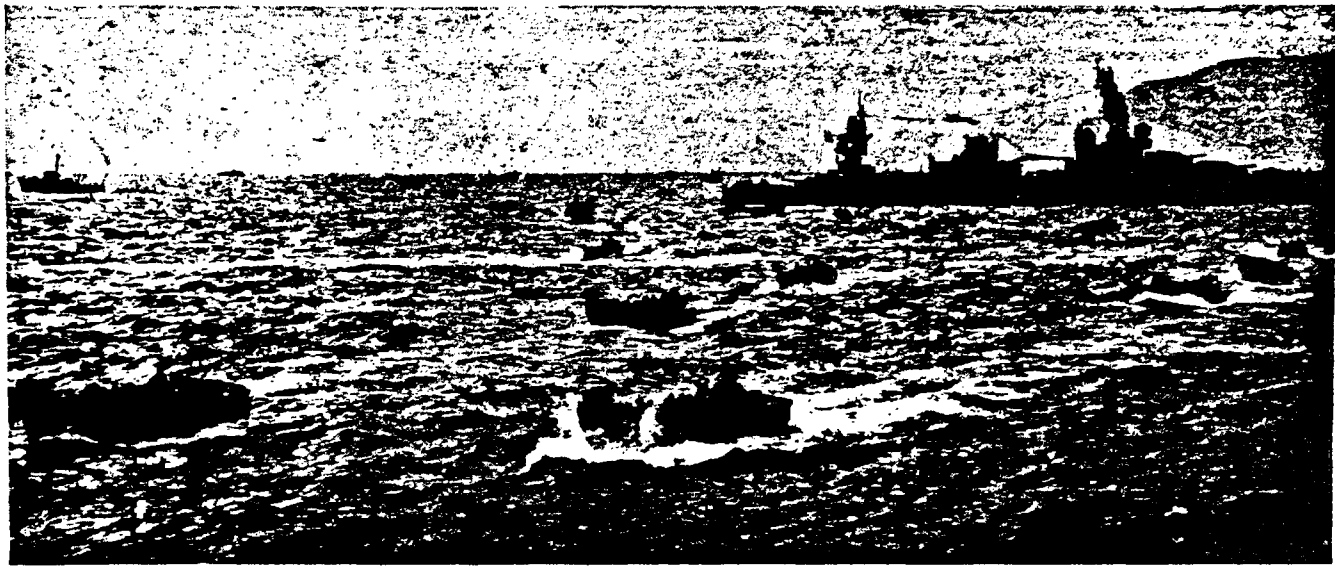
To meet this situation a special task force of engineers was given the mission of clearing and marking lanes through these obstacles for use by later waves.

In the 116th's zone the first boats of these succeeding waves were scheduled to come ashore at H plus 30 minutes, bringing the remainder of the two assault battalions, together with elements of the 121st

Engineers, who were to assist the assaulting infantry by clearing paths through the minefields on the beach and in the bluffs, and by opening the beach exits to traffic. Guns of the artillery and their crews were not to land until H plus 90 minutes.

Long before D-day Allied bombers had hammered the German batteries up and down the north coast of France in a general softening-up operation, and as early as April 15 Pointe du Hoc had received the first of three heavy air strikes, but now the RAF was assigned to the immediate D-day preparation. Between midnight and dawn of June 6, a fleet of 1,333 planes was to bomb every known target from the mouth of the Seine River west to the port of Cherbourg.

The fire-support plan for the Omaha Beach land-



LCVPs, each carrying approximately thirty men, head for land after being launched from their transport. In the background is the cruiser Augusta.

ing involved air and naval bombardment of the beach defenses starting half an hour before the leading waves reached shore. This, it was hoped, would neutralize all the gun positions and demoralize the enemy garrisons. Heavy bombers of the Eighth Air Force were to hit all targets between the Vire and Orne Rivers in an attack between H minus 30 and H minus 5 minutes.

The battleships *Texas* and *Arkansas* were to fire their big guns from H minus 40 to H minus 3 minutes, with six hundred rounds of the heaviest shells aimed at Pointe du Hoc and at the les Moulins exit. Three cruisers and eight destroyers were to contribute their four-, five-, and six-inch guns to the preparation, while additional support was to come from guns on smaller craft. Tank 75mm guns and 105mm artillery pieces were to fire from their boats while coming ashore, and LCTs three thousand yards offshore were to fire high-explosive rockets when the leading assault wave reached a point three hundred yards from the beach. At H-hour all naval fires were to shift to inland targets or wait for direction by naval shore fire control parties accompanying the assaulting units.

Five minutes before H-hour the 743d Tank Battalion's amphibious tanks (equipped with large air-filled canvas skirts to keep them afloat) were scheduled to land at the edge of the tidal flat and commence firing at the shore positions. At H-hour eight LCTs were to land the tanks of the 743d Tank Battalion's A Company farther east, on the left of the amphibious tanks, with a similar mission of providing cover for the leading waves.

Ten miles off the French coast the great invasion fleet waited in the dark of early morning. It was June 6—D-day! In a few hours the Second Front would be born.

Since the dark days of Dunkirk the whole Allied world had waited for the dawn of this day—when the great Atlantic Wall would be smashed and a second front would form on the European continent. When it would be, or where, had been a matter known only in the highest military circles, but that was one day to come was a dread certainty. Africa, Sicily, Italy—all were "second fronts," but not in the public estimation, for only when the two military colossi met upon the European mainland would the issue be decided. And so History had waited during four consuming years for the inevitable hour when the battle would be joined. And now it was here. It was D-day!

A view of these last hours before the invasion is found in the following account by Sgt. Gilbert G. Murdoch, of 116th's A Company:

The first night aboard the transport we didn't sleep much but most of the men went to their bunks anyway and the ship was unusually quiet, not at all like it was on the dark runs. The next day went quickly and before we knew it was night again.

This is the equipment we had: Every man had his issue M1 OD uniform [made of cloth specially treated to prevent penetration by gas]. Over this we wore a special landing [assault] jacket, with four huge pockets in the front, and two huge pockets in the back. As a rifleman I had my normal allotment of M1 ammo, sixty rounds per



Troops wade ashore from their LCVP on Easy Red Beach, the area of the east exit to St. Laurent, where two sections of 116th's Company E mis-landed. Identity of the troops shown here is uncertain. A tank of the 741st Tank Battalion can be seen on the tidal flat. The time is probably about 7:30 a.m., since the tide has already covered the lower obstacles.

three bandoleers around my neck, three fragmentation grenades, one smoke grenade, one phosphorus grenade. Each of us had a quarter pound of TNT (for blowing foxholes we were told!). We carried one set of K rations, a breakfast, dinner, and supper, and three D-bars. On the back we had the rations, raincoat, and what was called a paratroop packet, which was a pouch holding a syrette of morphine and a tourniquet. This was for our own immediate use, for no medics were to be in there with us in the first wave. Over this jacket we had a navy-type lifesaving belt, the type with two tubes that are inflated by the breaking of two capsules. Around the neck and under the jacket went the one-inch band of the amphibious gas mask. . . In my pockets in the front of the jacket I had my blanks to be used in propelling my antitank grenades. Under my left arm hung the antitank grenades in a web bag.

All during the trip across the Channel almost all of us stayed below. There was really nowhere to go and no feeling to get away from the companionship of our buddies. ["We talked about the invasion, and whether there would be many Germans defending the beach, and how hard it would be to reach our objective. We knew this was the day. We were oriented and told all about it weeks in advance except for the date."—Pfc. Anthony Ferrara, F Company, 116th.]

["The morale of the men was high, and the talk ranged from furloughs in England after D-day plus 3 to going directly home after the invasion."—Sgt. Popkin Krekorian, F Co., 116th.]

Early in the morning of June 6 we were awakened, those of us who were asleep, and were told to get ready. We were read messages from General Eisenhower and Marshal Montgomery. This was about two-thirty now so all of the fellows went around shaking their friends' hands for we all knew that this would be it and it would be rough. Our first sergeant back in the staging area had jokingly told the fellows that as soon as we had taken the beach we would all receive Bronze Star medals. So we all kidded each other about this. ["The last meal was at 3:00 A.M. We used the same chow line as the Navy men. We had frankfurters and beans, doughnuts and coffee."—Pfc. Ferrara.]

The hour came around and we all went up in single file to the upper deck and so out through the double blackout curtains on the main deck. It was about four o'clock and it was very dark out. There was still no sound from the shore.

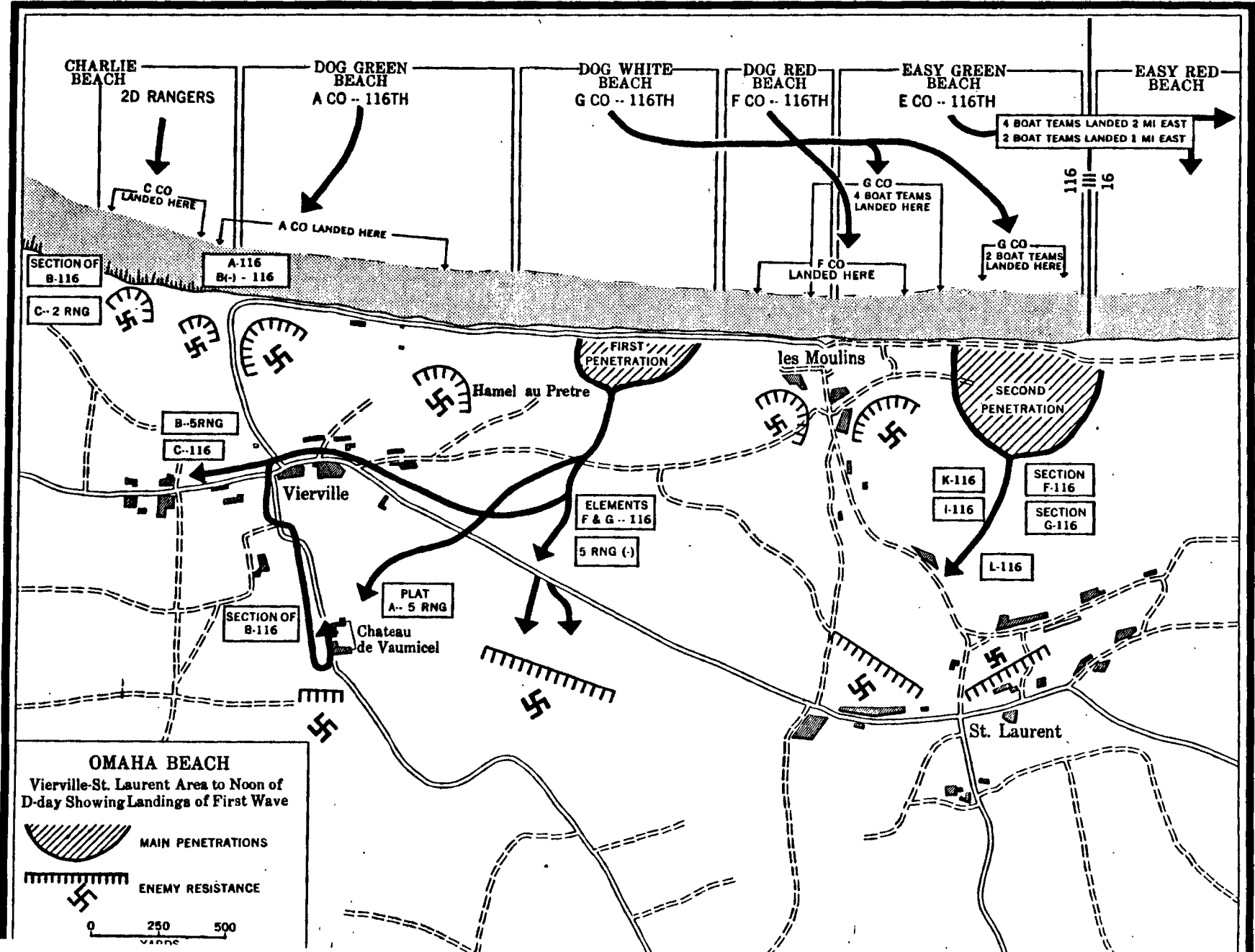
At four promptly the transport stopped engines and we all clambered into the landing craft (which hung from the side of the transport). We climbed across the iron pipes that ran around the ship and across into our landing craft. Each man was helped in and his equipment helped over. I maneuvered myself into the bow of the craft where I had station. Voices could be heard all over, calling to friends in other boats.

I can distinctly remember looking at George Reach, who was the assistant flamethrower of my boat team and how he smiled back there in the dark. He was my special pal and a young fellow of eighteen and not too heavily built. I wondered at the time how he would make out carrying off the 60-pound can of fuel. (Little did I know that just a few hours later on the beach he would swim out to a knocked-out tank, where I was, and save my life, for I had by that time been nicked in the ankle and couldn't have made it in by myself.) Just as the davits were lowering us into the water I called goodbye to the third of our little triumvirate, Robert Bruce, who was in another boat.

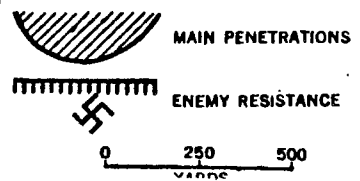
We hit the Channel with a thud and away we went . . . The men started taking their seasick pills. In fact one guy took half a bottle of the darn things. He was practically walking in his sleep when he went off the craft [at the beach].

As we went toward the beach we could see the colored flares that the amphibious engineers had placed to mark the route. As we passed the last flare, after being in the water for almost two hours, the battleship *Texas* fired. We could see the flash, then hear the roar of the shell overhead, then hear the report of it as it left the muzzle, then see the flash on the shore, and then hear the bursting shell explode. It all seemed weird as we were under this all the time.

Rocket barges gave us our first real fright. They started to fire their huge banks. They seemed to fire on the upward roll and dropped their huge load of rockets a few hundred yards in front of us, still a good two miles offshore. One



OMAHA BEACH
 Vierville-St. Laurent Area to Noon of
 D-day Showing Landings of First Wave



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Die Invasion hat begonnen Abwehr und Kampf in vollem Gange

Ueberraschung mißlungen

Luftlandeverbände in der Seine-Bucht abgesetzt — Landungsboote an anderen Abschnitten der Küste — Geschütze des Atlantik-Walls im Kampf mit feindlichen Kriegsschiffen



Entscheidungskampf

Der lang erwartete Tag der Invasion ist da. Das Schwert hat das Wort. Mit größtem Vertrauen sieht das deutsche Volk auf seine Truppen und ihre Führung, die nun im Entscheidungskampf dieses Krieges stehen. Wir wissen, daß alles getan wurde, was militärisch getan werden konnte, und daß unsere Soldaten im Atlantikwall, gestützt auf ausgebaute Stellungen und neuzeitliche Waffen und gedeckt durch Eingreifdivisionen, dem Feind einen heißen Empfang bereitet werden. Sie wurden dabei daran denken, daß sie nunmehr Gelegenheit haben, dem Feinde heimzuzahlen, was diese mit der Zerstörung deutscher Städte und den Bomben auf Frauen und Kinder an unserem Volk verbrochen haben.

Im Herbst 1943 glaubten sie schließlich nach dem Verrat des italienischen Königs militärische und politische Rückwirkungen von einem Attentat in der Hand zu haben, das ihnen der Sieg als politische Frucht ohne eigene große Blutopfer in den Schoß fallen würde. Im vergangenen Winter haben sie, während die Sowjets Monat für Monat Hunderttausende opfereten, den Nervenkrieg gegen die Verbündeten Deutschlands und gegen die Neutralen geweigert, auch das wieder in der Hoffnung, die große Schlacht zu vermeiden. Das alles hat zum Ziele geführt, und in geradezu drohender Form hat Moskau am 1. Mai den Unterdrückungsangriff aus dem Westen gefordert. Allerdings kann dabei nicht bezweifelt werden, daß Churchill und Roosevelt die Invasion bereits in Teibern wieder einmal zugewagt hatten.

The Berlin press reports the landings: "The Invasion Has Begun . . . Battle and Defense in Full Swing." Headlines over the map read, "Surprise Fails . . . Paratroopers Dropped in the Seine Estuary—Landing Craft Hits Other Sections of Coast—Guns of the Atlantic Wall in Battle with Enemy Warships."

guy yelled, "Well there goes our holes on the beach!" By this time some of the guys were seasick and some were arguing over little things that didn't count. Some guys, like myself, were just standing there in the boat thinking and shivering. By this time [there was a cold fine spray, like rain] . . . and the boat was beginning to ship water.

THE FIRST WAVE

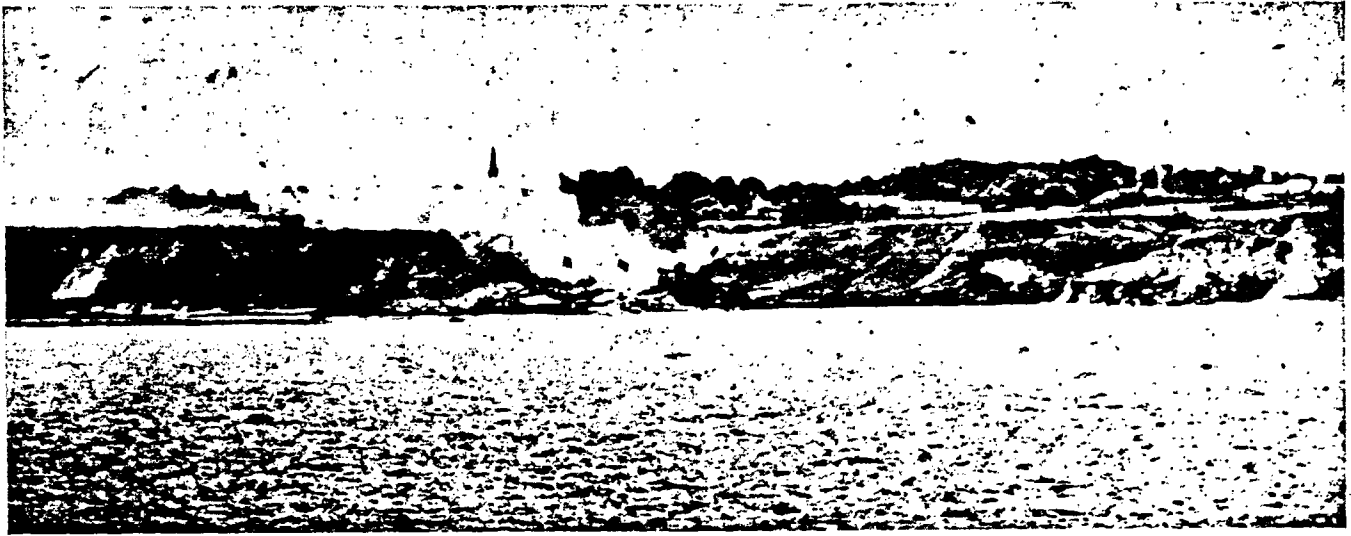
Shortly after 3:00 A.M. troops of the 116th Regimental Combat Team aboard the transport *Thomas Jefferson* began climbing into the LCVPs which hung over the ship's deck.¹ As these 30-man landing craft were loaded they were lowered down the ship's side to the water. Then they commenced a sweeping circular course near the big transport, waiting for other boats to be launched. It was still dark at 4:30 A.M. when all the waiting craft swung into line, pointed

¹Eight of the 116th's thirty-three boats were lowered to the water before being loaded. Boats used by 116th's 1st Battalion and the Rangers were British type APAs.

their prows toward land and struck out across the Channel waters on their approach march to the Battle of France.

The first wave started in twenty-five minutes ahead of schedule to allow for the rough sea. The LCVPs rocked and pitched in the boisterous water, and the men cramped with their bulky equipment began to get seasick. The sea spray bore through their heavy impregnated clothing, high waves washing over the ships' sides, drenched them through, while strong winds blew the cold of morning against their wet bodies and left them weak. Although not all of the men were victims of seasickness, the battle efficiency of each boat team suffered greatly from the cold wet ride from the transport area.

Before long all of the LCVPs were shipping water from the rough Channel and in some boats the water came in faster than the pumps could drain it off, re-



Smoke rises from the Vierville draw under naval gunfire on D-day. The time is uncertain. It may be between noon and 1:00 p.m. during the bombardment which knocked out the enemy positions at this beach exit.

quiring the riders to bail out with their steel helmets. Disaster befell one of A Company's boats a thousand yards from shore when it swamped and sank. Although naval craft came to the rescue, one of the men in this boat team drowned.

As the boats approached the looming bluffs of Omaha Beach, visible through the thick morning haze, the thunder of naval gunfire and rockets, and of tanks and cannon working from LCTs lent a measure of reassurance and encouragement to the men in the first assault wave. No answering fire was coming from the beach, and the men in the boats had reason to hope that all of the beach strongpoints had been reduced in the heavy preparation by the Navy and the Air Forces.

This hope died four hundred yards from shore. The Germans commenced firing their mortars and artillery, and although initially the fire lacked accuracy, as the landing craft came nearer to the beach it became increasingly effective. Artillery and mortar shells were now beating a splashing pattern in the water about the boats.

Company A was heading straight for its designated landing point near the Vierville draw when one of its boats received a direct hit: A blinding light flashed over the stricken craft. Two men lay dead on the bottom of the boat. The rest were over the sides, struggling with their equipment, and swimming toward shore.

The four remaining boats of A Company ploughed in through the barrage and at H plus 6 minutes they dropped their ramps in waist deep to overhead water.

As though it had been a signal for the enemy to

commence firing, the dropping of the ramps seemed to set off the automatic weapons on the bluffs. The boats at once came under a deadly cross fire of machine guns, and the first men attempting to descend the ramps were riddled with bullets. Order was instantly lost, and the long-rehearsed unloading plans were abandoned. Men went over the sides of their boats, plunging into the water to avoid the fire. Struggling to remove the heavy equipment that was pulling them down, they floundered in the water trying to keep afloat in the beaten zone of the German guns.

Some of the men were hit in the water and drowned; others, wounded, swam weakly till their feet touched bottom and then dragged themselves onto the sands. Men who had reached the beach unhurt found their position on the wide exposed sands more dangerous and ran back into the water up to their necks for concealment and cover from the enemy fire. Some men stayed on the beach, burrowing holes into the shingle and sand until the rising tide engulfed them in the water again. Ten minutes after the ramps had dropped A Company was without officers.

Lt. Edward N. Garing was back where the first boat had foundered. All of the others were dead except Lt. Elijah Nance who had been hit in the heel as he left the boat and then in the body as he reached the sands. Lt. Clyde R. Tidrick was hit in the throat as he jumped from the ramp into the water. He went on to the sands and flopped down fifteen feet from Pvt. Leo-J. Nash. He raised up to give Nash an order. Nash saw him bleeding from the throat and heard his words "Advance with the wire cutters!" It was futile. Nash had no wire cutters, and in giving the order Tidrick had made himself a target for just an instant and



Exhausted survivors of a sunken landing craft are helped on to the shingle by troops of the Engineer Special Brigade at Omaha Beach

Nash saw machine-gun bullets cleave him from head to pelvis. German machine gunners along the cliff directly ahead were now firing straight down into the party. Capt. Taylor N. Fellers and Lt. Benjamin R. Kearfott had come in with thirty men from A Company aboard LCA 1015 (a British-type assault craft), but what had happened to that boat team will never be known in detail. Every man was killed, and most of the bodies were found along the beach.¹

Company A's landing had developed into a struggle for personal survival. The men in the water had abandoned their arms and had thrown off their helmets to keep from drowning. The company's combat effectiveness was almost zero and all thought of moving forward was abandoned. Only a few men were still armed, and only a few of these weapons, clogged with wet sand, could fire. No leaders were there to give orders, and none was given. Each man made his own decision. At the end of the first half hour on the beach A Company had one-third of its men left, according to survivors' estimates. This assault group had become nothing more than a rescue party concerned with saving its wounded from the sea. Its survivors remained at the bottom of the cliff and not until that night did they rejoin the battalion.

While A Company was under this merciless fire the other assault companies, E, F, and G of the

¹*Group Critique Notes*, Col. S. L. A. Marshall, War Department, Historical Division.

116th's 2d Battalion were landing farther east on the beach—considerably farther east than they were supposed to land. In general the losses to these companies were less than A's, principally because of a grass fire along a several hundred yard stretch of bluff in the area of les Moulins exit. The fire, which probably had been set off by naval rockets, covered the beach below it with a thick billowing smoke screen, blinding enemy observation and preventing effective fire on the landings. The smoke cloud was so dense that later, on advancing up the bluffs many of the men wore their gas masks.

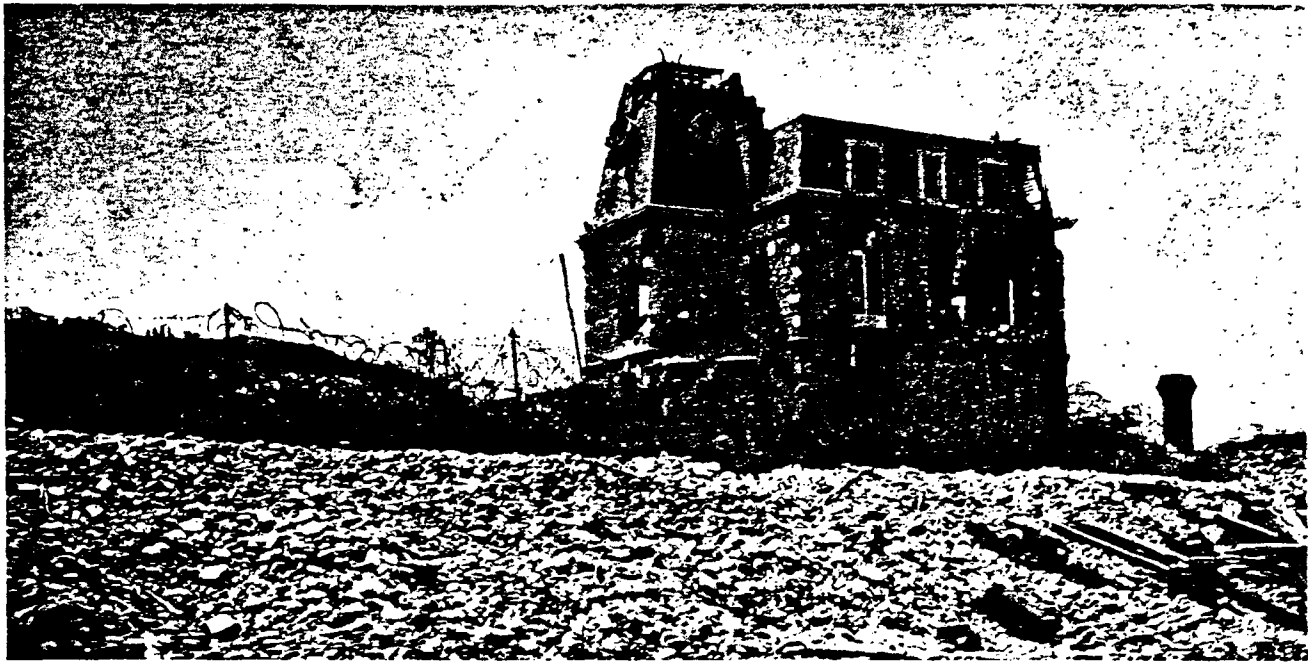
Those boats of F and G Companies which landed in this blind zone got through to the protection of the shingle with relatively light losses. Boats landing outside the smoke came under the deadly fire of the enemy and paid a heavy toll in casualties.

From west to east (right to left) the companies were to land on the beach in the line: A,G,F,E.

Company A as we have seen, landed in its assigned sector and was put out of action.

F Company landed near its target at les Moulins draw with three sections in the smoke and three sections outside it. Those sections covered with smoke reached the shingle bank with relatively few losses. The other sections took forty-five minutes to cross the open beach, and suffered fifty per cent casualties.

E and G didn't even come close to their targets.



The shingle embankment, which rose from the beach, afforded some cover to the assaulting troops. The large house beyond the wire, a landmark of Les Moulins draw, was occupied for a time by Major Bingham, CO of 116th's 2d Battalion.

E Company's boats veered so far off their course that when they touched down they were in the zone of the 1st Division's 16th Infantry over a mile east of their designated beach.

G Company, which was to land on the right of F Company, landed instead on the left, a thousand yards east of its assigned target. This error, however, was a fortunate one, for it put part of the company in the smoke zone. Three or four sections were half-way across the beach before they received their first fire, and they were assembled at the base of the bluffs within fifteen minutes of the time they left the boats—the fastest and least costly landing of the first wave. However, those G Company boats which landed outside the smoke suffered heavily in the move across the beach.

At the extreme right of the 116th zone, on Charlie Beach (to the right of A Company's landing target) C Company of the 2d Rangers was put ashore in the first wave. The 65-man company lost thirty-five men in its advance across the beach.

The sea wall or shingle bank was always the first objective for the men after they left the boats. On reaching it they would lie low and wait to be led or driven forward across the remaining stretch of open flats to the next protection afforded by the bluffs.

At 7:00 A.M., when the second assault landing wave was nearing the shore, the first wave was scattered—along the shingle, at the base of the bluffs,

behind obstacles, behind the sea wall. Enemy artillery and mortar shells were still ripping the beach. Burp guns and machine guns were beating the ground where the men hid, and snipers were trying to pick them off. On the beach many tanks were burning but some were still shooting at the German positions in the bluffs. G Company was preparing to move west along the beach to its assigned sector—a moment that resulted in almost complete disorganization of the company.

LATER WAVES

Subsequent assault waves were scheduled to land as follows:

7:00—B and H Companies

7:10—D Company

7:20—C, K, I, and L Companies

7:28—M Company

The landing plan had presumed that the beach would be cleared sufficiently to allow the boat teams of the second wave to move directly inland to their assigned assembly areas. This was now impossible. The boats of the second wave came ashore under the same conditions encountered by the first, and landed on the wrong beaches just as boats of the first wave had done. B Company touched down on a wide area a thousand yards on each side of its designated beach. Craft landing on that part of the beach where C Company had been decimated met the same fate.



Wounded rest at the base of the cliffs in the zone of the 1st Division. The 29th Division soldiers seen here are probably from one of the mis-landed boat teams.

deadly fire and casualties. The boat report of one of B Company's sections which did not misland reads almost identically as those of A Company in the first wave:

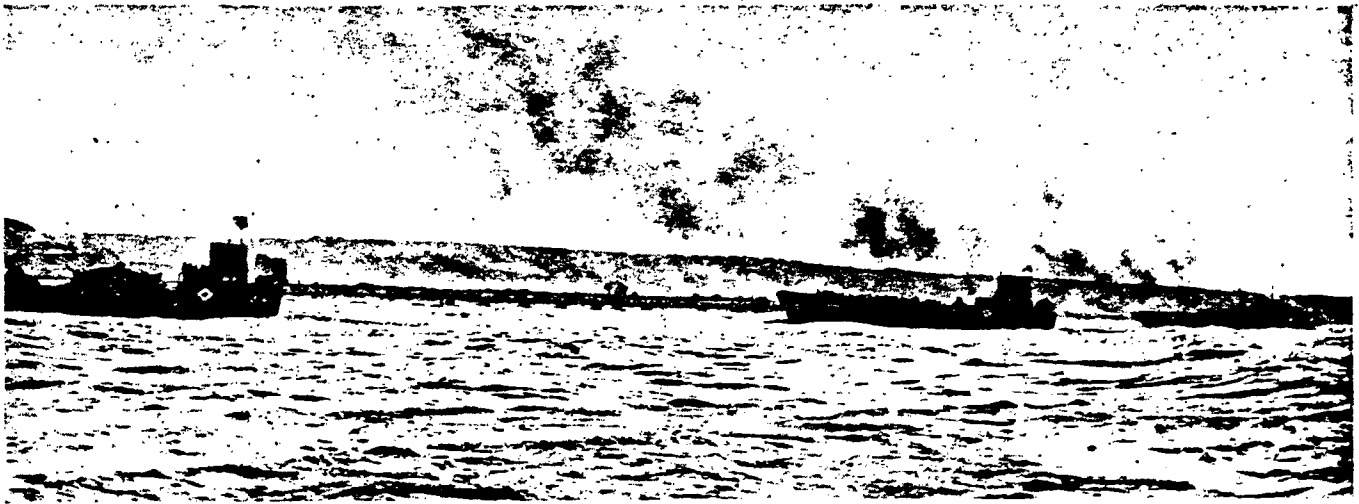
About seventy-five yards from the beach the ramp was dropped, and the enemy automatic fire then beat a tattoo all over the boat front. Capt. Ettore Zappacosta, the Company Commander, jumped from the boat and got ten yards through the water. Pfc. Robert Sales saw him hit in the leg and shoulder. He yelled, "I'm hit." T/S Kenser, a first-aid man, yelled: "Try to make it in!" Zappacosta went down and they did not see him come up again. Then Kenser jumped toward him and was shot dead. Lt. Tom Dallas, of C, who had come in to make a reconnaissance also jumped out. He got to the edge of the sand and fell dead. Sales was fourth in line and it had come his turn. He started out with his SCR-300, tripped at the edge of the ramp and fell, sprawling into the water. It probably saved his life.

Man by man, all of those leaving the ramp behind him were either killed or wounded. Sales was the only one to get as far as the beach, and it took him almost two hours. Pvt. Mack L. Smith, hit three times through the face, joined

him there. A medic bandaged him. A man named Kemper, hit three times in the leg, joined them and Sales bandaged him. They lay there, sharing a pack as a pillow while the fighting continued all around them. The dead washed up to where they lay and then washed back again. They pulled the bodies of their own men onto the sand. When the day ended not one man from Pfc. Sales' boat had struck a blow.

H Company, due in at 7:00 A.M., landed one machine-gun platoon and two mortar sections far to the east in the zone of the 16th Infantry and the rest of the company in the area where F and G Companies had landed.

... Pfc. John T. Amendola [said] "Two of the men from my section got down behind a tetrahedron to escape the bullets. An artillery shell hit the tetrahedron and drove the steel back into their bodies. I tried to pry the steel loose from the men but couldn't do it. Then I figured they were dead, anyway." In Pfc. Preston W. Bousman's boat only six men were left in the section after five minutes; the others were killed or wounded by an 88mm shell as they stepped from the ramp (the shell sank the boat) or by bullets as



LCTs off Omaha Beach on D-day. Les Moulins draw is at the extreme left. The craft at the far right has received a direct hit and is afire.

they waded ashore . . . The smoke had now cleared somewhat from the cliff edge, the grass fire burning itself out, and the third and fourth waves caught the full impact of the remaining enemy guns.

Looking back S/Sgt. Popkin Krekorian saw nine boats. He counted them; seven were ablaze and sinking. Two LCIs containing the regimental supply of plasma were among the craft that were going down.

. . . At its high point the tide had washed many of the bodies up on the sand, and they lay there parallel with the beach in an almost straight line of bodies. . . . "They looked just like Madame Tussaud's. Like wax, [Private Amendola observed]. None of it seemed real. I felt like I was seeing some kind of show. I felt this really can't be happening."¹

Losses to D Company, due in at 7:10 A.M., prevented their heavy weapons from contributing much to the fighting on the beach. One of the boats was abandoned far out at sea after shipping too much water. Another was sunk by a mine or an artillery shell a quarter mile from land. A third boat dropped its ramps 150 yards from the beach, and when the men saw others in front of them staying in the water, they followed their example. The company came ashore over a two-hour period with two mortars, three machine guns and very little ammunition.

C Company, due in at 7:20 A.M., arrived ten minutes ahead of time. It mislanded, and touched down 1,500 yards east of the Vierville draw. The smoke on the bluff again worked to advantage, the entire company getting across the beach with only five or six casualties. Although an overturned boat cost the company its bangalores, flamethrowers, and mortars which were to have been used in reduction of positions at the Vierville exit, the company held bet-

ter organization and better fighting condition than any other unit on the 29th's part of Omaha Beach. The company's flanks were less than one hundred yards apart, and its weapons were dry and in working condition.

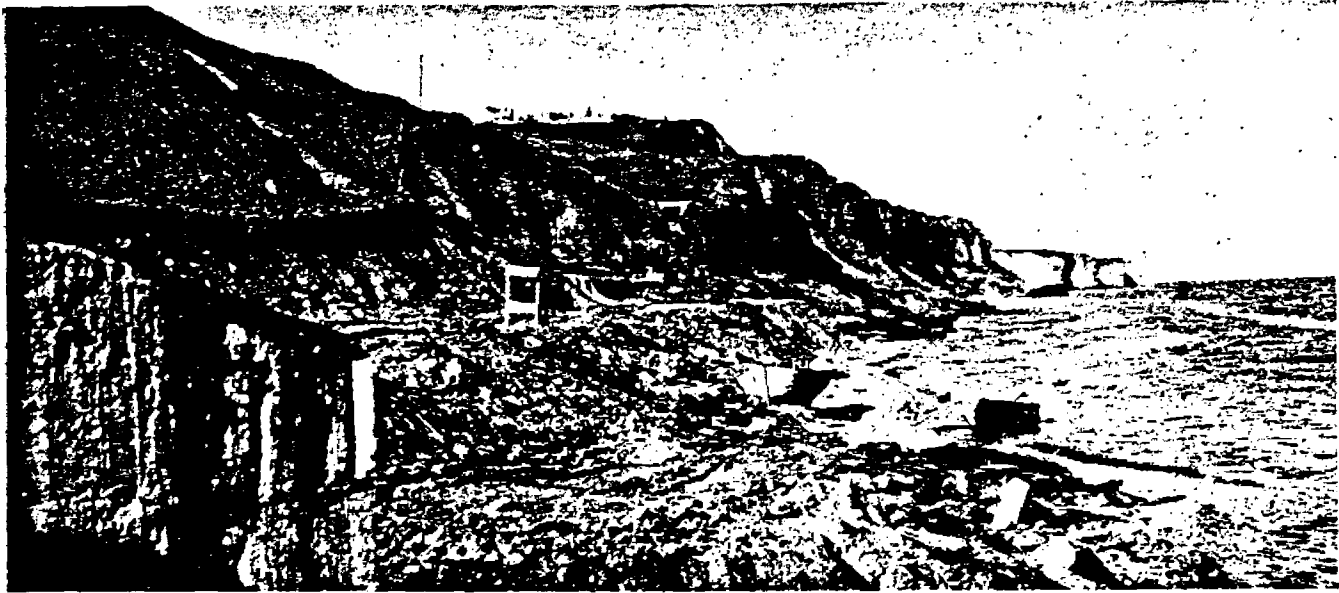
Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, due in at 7:10 A.M., took very heavy casualties in crossing the tidal flat, and remained pinned by rifle fire behind the cliffs beyond the western end of the beach.

Soon the tide was advancing so swiftly that the wounded could barely be dragged to shore ahead of the waves. In the water and on the beach the wounded did strange, panicky things. One man lying wounded on the sands was observed hugging a live waterproofed Teller mine. A life belt, which had been wrapped around it, possibly indicated safety to the soldier, and, although other men tried to tell him to let go, he wouldn't loosen his grasp.

The inclination of landing craft to come ashore east of their assigned targets continued in the beaching of the 116th's 3d Battalion. All of the companies landed east of les Moulins exit—some as much as 1,200 yards from their appointed sectors. The movement across the beach was achieved by individual boats teams with relatively light losses against scattered and generally ineffective fire. M Company mislanded in the zone of the 1st Division, where there had been no previous landing. None of the obstacles had been cleared and there were no shell craters for protection.

Sections of the company gained the protection of a gully on the beach where they set up four machine

¹Group Critique Notes, Col. S. L. A. Marshall, War Department Historical Division.



Charlie Beach, west of the Vierville draw. The attached 2d Rangers and a section of 116th's Company B scaled the cliffs here.

guns and two mortars to deliver fire against the German positions near the east exit to St. Laurent (E-1 exit). Most of M Company remained here until later in the morning when other units came ashore.

Conditions on the beach at H-hour plus 1 (7:30 A.M.) were congested and confused. Troops from the first and second waves were spread along the beach behind the sea wall.

In addition to the landings already described were those of the Rangers. The entire 5th Ranger Battalion and A and B Company of the 2d Ranger Battalion, having waited offshore in vain for the order to move directly to reinforce the Rangers at Pointe du Hoe, had come ashore under their alternate plan, landing in the zone of the 116th. A and B Company of the 2d Rangers landed on Dog Green Beach, partly in the area of the ill-fated landing of 116th's A Company. A few hundred yards to the east the 5th Rangers had landed in good order and with light losses between the Vierville and les Moulins exits in an area already congested.

Congestion was being further increased on parts of the beach by the landings of advance parties of the Provisional Engineer Special Brigade Group, medical detachments, antiaircraft units, artillery reconnaissance parties, and naval shore fire-control parties.

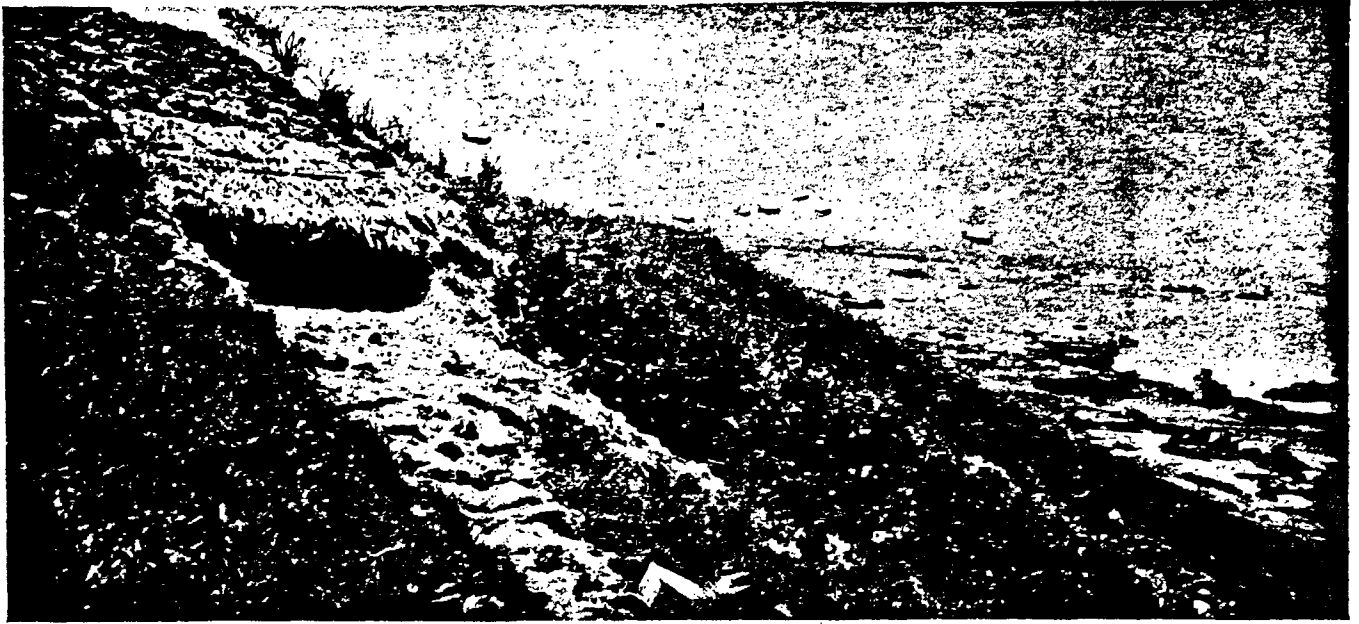
At approximately 7:30 A.M. General Cota, Assistant Division Commander, and Colonel Canham, commander of the 116th RCT, came ashore between the 1st and 2d Battalions on Dog White Beach in an LCPV bearing personnel of the 116th's command

group and the 29th Division's advance CP. There were no troops on this section of the beach, but machine-gun fire was being received from the right front. The two command groups were instructed to remain behind the sea wall. General Cota then moved along the beach to the right, while Colonel Canham went to the left to rally the troops on the beach and get them started. C Company, inert but not disorganized, along with some 2d Battalion groups, was strung along the shingle embankment by the sea wall, just waiting. There was no concentrated fire in the area of C Company, the closest enemy strongpoints being several hundred yards to either flank, and heavy smoke from the grass fires was drifting across the front.

ADVANCE UP THE BLUFFS

Slightly beyond C Company's right flank a gap existed in the four-foot-high sea wall, behind which the men lay. On the other side of the wall was the promenade road; across the road was a double-apron wire fence; beyond that was 150 yards of swampy flat, stretching to the base of the bluffs. The bluffs were steep and relatively bare, but they held hidden bits of defilade. Enemy rifles covered this area, but the machine guns in this sector were sited for flanking fire on other portions of the beach, leaving this particular area free of automatic fire. This was now to become the area of the first penetration of the enemy's beach line.

It was about 7:50 A.M. when C Company commenced to move. Pvt. Ingram Lambert, carrying a



German gun emplacements overlooking the beach. The barrage balloons, held by heavy cable, protected vessels from strafing attacks by enemy planes.

bangalore torpedo, crawled through the gap in the sea wall, ran across the road and shoved the long pipe-like demolition charge under the wire. Before he could set it off, however, machine-gun bullets felled him. When Lt. Stanley M. Schwartz, platoon leader, saw what had happened, he left his position behind the wall, darted across the road to the wire where Lambert lay dead. Fixing the igniter on the bangalore torpedo he set off the charge, blowing a large gap. The first men attempting to run through the opened wire fence were shot, but others followed, dashing through the opening and leaping into the empty trenches just beyond the road. After the first group of men had gotten through, the Germans on the bluff turned machine guns on the scene of this activity, and dropped artillery here in an attempt to close the gap in the wire. However, still more men scurried through the gap and reached the trenches.

In five or ten minutes the group began climbing from the trenches and heading for the bluff, taking occasional concealment in the high grass or behind the few scattered bushes in the swamp. Reaching the bluff slope the men found cover in the scattered defilade positions there and good concealment in the smoke.

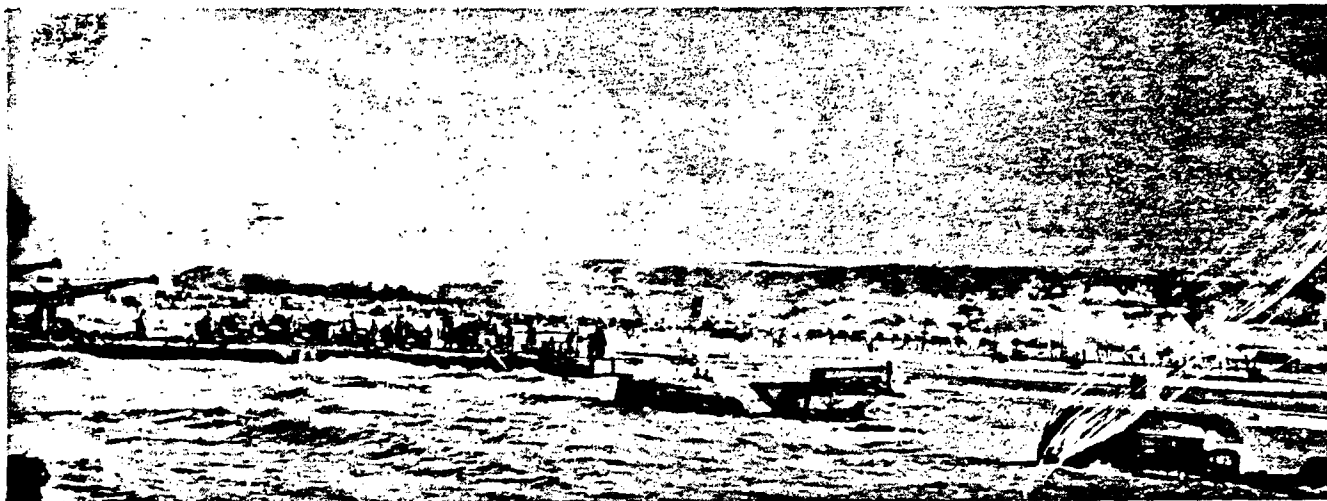
They advanced slowly, moving for the most part in a narrow column as they searched for mines in the ground before them. At the crest of the bluff they found enemy trenches unoccupied. They kept on going, pushing inland two hundred yards into the

flat open fields before they were halted by machine-gun fire from their flanks.

Other troops were soon to reinforce and spread this first major penetration of the day. Units of the 5th Ranger Battalion who had also mislanded on this section of beach followed C Company up the bluffs, some of their men unaware that they had a friendly force in front of them. Dashing through four gaps they had blown in the wire about 8:10 A.M. they double-timed across the beach. On the face of the



The church at Vierville-sur-Mer. The Germans directed artillery fire from this steeple until fire from a tank's gun brought it down.



A Rhino ferry landing on the crowded beach during the afternoon of D-day. Les Moulins draw is at the right.

bluffs they slowed down to a crawl, but the entire battalion was up on the bluff top by 9:00 A.M., with the loss of only eight men.

Small parties from F Company's surviving sections (from the first wave) and an isolated section of B Company, had also reached the bluff-top west of les Moulins draw by 9:00. East of the draw elements of all three rifle companies of 116th's 3d Battalion—I, K, and L—were on the top of the bluff at approximately the same time.

The remnants of the 2d Ranger's C Company (which landed at the right of 116th's A Company) had reached the top by 7:30 A.M., after climbing a steep ninety-foot cliff with the aid of four toggle ropes. It was soon reinforced by a section of 116th's B Company (which had landed in the second wave and had moved right along the beach to make the ascent by the ropes). These two small groups swung east toward German positions about a house from which they had received small-arms fire. Although the house was not fortified a German strongpoint lay beyond it, commanding the beach approaches to the Vierville draw, and the entire morning was spent in a series of small attacks on communication trenches and dug outs until the position was finally reduced.

An official résumé of events that took place at the advance Division CP during D-day and D plus 1 (prepared in lieu of a journal) clarifies some of the events of D-day and pinpoints some of the action. Extracts of this document follow:

General Cota, his aide, Lieutenant Shea, and one radio operator, left the APA *Charles Carroll*, with Colonel Canham, CO 116th Infantry, and the Advance Headquarters,

116th Infantry at approximately 0500 hours, 6 June 1944. This group landed on D-White Beach at approximately H plus 60 minutes. They remained with the advance headquarters 116th Infantry during the capture of Vierville and until troops [2d Ranger Battalion and part of 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry] were started on their advance toward Pointe et Raz de la Percée. The group then reconnoitered the Vierville beach exit and proceeded east along the beach to locate the remainder of the 29th Infantry Division Advance Headquarters which was due to come ashore around 1000 at D-Red Beach.

The remainder of the 29th Division Advance Headquarters, consisting of Lt. Col. Terry, Division TQM; Major Watts, Assistant G-3; Major Bratton, Assistant G-2; Major Phillips, Assistant G-4; Major LoGrippo, Division Sanitary Officer; Captain Yerby, Division Artillery Representative; Captain Little, Assistant Division Signal Officer; Lieutenant Hildebrandt, 29th Division Signal Company; Lieutenant Beatty, 29th Division Headquarters Company; and enlisted personnel from the Signal Company and Division Headquarters, left the APA *Charles Carroll* at approximately 0730 hours to land on D-Red Beach. Upon leaving the *Charles Carroll* the coxswain was ordered to steer on a known azimuth and report to PC-57 for direction to D-Red Beach. The LCVP had been under way approximately thirty minutes when the coxswain inquired of Major Watts, Acting Chief of Staff of the Headquarters Group, if he knew where the group was going. It was then discovered that the coxswain had taken off without a compass. The LCVP was navigated by dead reckoning with the use of a pocket compass, and on nearing the beach reported to a PC and found that it was in the center of the 1st Division sector. It then proceeded west, found the proper PC and proceeded toward D-Red Beach, where it came under heavy fire. No troops were observed on the beach and it was impossible to land due to enemy action.

Major Watts then directed the coxswain to proceed east until a possible landing site could be found. Touchdown was made at approximately 500 yards east of the D-3 St. Laurent-sur-Mer exit. Two LCTs, carrying elements of the 58th Armored Field Artillery, touched down at the same



This picture of 29th Division prisoners of war appeared in the Wiener Illustrierte and other German newspapers. Its caption read: ". . . They wanted to liberate Europe, these gum-chewing American prisoners, among whom the wildest gangster type is found. Contents of their pockets—knives and brass knuckles—showed them to be from the dregs of the American underworld."

time, approximately 0900, both of which received direct hits from enemy artillery at the time of touchdown.

The Headquarters Group proceeded inland, taking shelter from enemy fire behind a beach wall and digging in. At this time, approximately 0930, the beach was covered with troops who were pinned down by enemy fire. The 6th Engineer Special Brigade and 2d and 3d Battalions of the 116th Infantry had both been landed on this beach. . .

Major Bratton proceeded down the beach to the west, Major Watts to the east to contact command elements of the 116th RCT. Troops were noted part way up the cliff and hanging on the top edge of cliff. . . Captain Clark, Liaison Officer from the 4th Division, went forward and contacted an officer from the 2d Battalion and found that

this element was just over the cliff and had suffered many casualties. . .

Major Watts contacted Brig. Gen. Wyman, Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Division, who advised him that he had ordered in the 115th Infantry and that they would land in a few minutes in the 1st Division sector, and requested Major Watts to keep close touch with him and if possible to put a wire into his headquarters which was within a concrete dugout, approximately 800 yards east of the 29th Division Advance CP.

General Cota reached the Division CP shortly after contact had been made with the 1st Division and also reported to the 1st's CP where orders were received placing the 115th under command of 29th Advance Headquarters. . .

Due to enemy artillery fire on the beach, Major Bratton moved the Division Advance CP from the beach to about two-thirds up the cliff. The CP was subsequently moved to the outskirts of St. Laurent-sur-Mer, where it remained during the night D-D plus 1.

At few places along Omaha Beach were the detailed assault plans able to be employed. Some units were so cut down by fire that they were without the strength to fight. Others landed on the wrong beaches, and not knowing the ground, improvised their own plans. The widely scattered landings disrupted companies before they set down on the beach, and disorganization existed even among boat teams.

Capt. Robert E. Walker, who came onto the beach as a member of 116th's S-2 Section, describes one view of the morning's battle scene:

Flamethrowers on our landing craft were hit. Flames burst all around the deck, scorching us and setting some of the men on fire. I saw one man with a six-inch fire blister on his face. Another man had his hair burning. He dragged himself to the rail and lowered himself headfirst into the water and drowned. Others jumped over the side of the boat and tried to swim in 150 yards to land. Those who made it to shore had swallowed lots of water and were sick there, vomiting on the beach.

Everywhere I looked I could see dead and wounded. But when I moved along the beach for a few hundred yards I couldn't find a single rifle or helmet. The men had just dropped them in the boats or in the water or had thrown them away. . . I met a Ranger lieutenant and we radioed to see how things were on other parts of the beach. The man who answered us wasn't trying to be funny. He was dead serious. He said: "The situation on the beach is normal."

In the confusion, uncertainty, and terror of first combat things happened that were not according to the book. A British sailor in one of the landing craft refused to drop the ramp, freezing on the rope until the men struggling with him took it out of his hands. The coxswain of one of the boats of 116th's D Company brought his landing craft to a halt four hundred yards out, refused to take it any closer to the beach, and told the men they would have to jump overboard and swim ashore. A platoon sergeant then blocked the coxswain who was attempting to lower the ramp, and demanded that he take the boat farther in. Two hundred yards from shore it struck an obstacle and sank, but the water here was only waist deep and the men waded to the beach.

Capt. Maurice N. McGrath, who came in with the 116th's Wire Section at about H plus 85 minutes, said:

The tide was coming in very fast and the beach was crowded with men, most of whom were immobilized and seemed incapable of action. Major McWhorter, Liaison Officer of Ninth Air Force, was with me. I saw Major Weller and we agreed that getting the men off the beach was the most important move for any of us. I went on up the hill to make a reconnaissance. Most of the fields were marked with mine-warning signs. In fact, there were so many of these that a man had to disregard them if he was to proceed at all.

When I got back to the beach I moved rightward toward the exit. At that point I saw a large number of men and officers lying around and doing nothing. Some were wounded but most of them appeared to be dazed. I ran into Major Bingham. He asked me if I had seen any of the men of the 2d battalion. I told him what I knew. He asked me to help him get the men together. Captain Cawthon was with him. A shell fragment had gone through both his cheeks, and he spouted blood as he talked but he did not seem to mind it. Along with these others and Captain Scott, I collected about forty men who had been separated from their sections and led them up the same trail I had previously taken. We continued along the road to a point just eastward of St. Laurent. At that point we ran into groups from the 1st Division. Bingham then turned right along the road and went into St. Laurent.

The two penetrations which were forming—one east and one west of les Moulins—had not been made through the natural beach exits, but rather, up the side of the bluffs, which were less strongly defended. The draws leading off the beach were still held by the enemy. The German defenders at the beach exits continued to put heavy fire on the beach, although in lesser volume as the afternoon passed. These positions had been hammered and partially destroyed by naval guns, and by tank fire, but the enemy there was able to remain active because our troops on the beach were too weak and disorganized at that stage to close with them. Also the engineers, who had suffered heavy losses in personnel and equipment, were unable to go to work on the reduction of the obstacles that blocked the draws.

As a consequence, vehicles that were landed were unable to move off the beach or even to the base of the cliffs. Fully exposed on the open beach, jeeps, tanks, halftracks, and trucks crowded the narrow strip between the water and the sea wall.

To forestall further traffic congestion the 7th Naval Beach Battalion, controlling the landings, radioed an order to the ships at sea, suspending the landing of any more vehicles. DUKWs and Rhino ferries, loaded with vehicles, had to remain offshore. This situation denied the penetrations the support of artillery, tanks, and antitank guns, and as a result the



This air photo shows the area of the second penetration and the advance of the 116th's 3d Battalion toward St. Laurent. German positions protecting the St. Laurent crossroads are shown with conventional front-line symbol.

advance inland moved at a considerably slower pace.

DISASTER OF THE 111TH

Advance elements of the 111th Field Artillery Battalion—forward observers, command, reconnaissance and liaison groups—were ashore near les Moulins draw about 8:30, prepared to receive and direct the beaching of the howitzers, which were to be brought ashore in DUKWs. Lt. Col. Thornton L. Mullins, battalion commander, who had come ashore with this advance section, surveyed the chaotic situation of the beach, which was still under small-arms fire and the fire of 88s and mortars. It was obvious to him that there was no chance of employing the battalion's howitzers at that time, and he gave the men of his advance section a new assignment in a brisk, pointed, verbal order. "To hell with our artillery mission," he said. "We're infantrymen now."

Although already wounded three times he followed the example of Major Bingham, commander of 116th's 2d Battalion, who was trying to bring the disorganized groups of F Company into a fighting force. Moving along the beach, Colonel Mullins gathered idle riflemen into little groups, set them to cleaning the sand from their weapons, and stirred them into offensive action. While he was thus engaged a sniper's bullet killed him.

The 111th was scheduled to land its twelve howitzers on the beach between 8:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. But at 9:00 eleven of the twelve guns were already at the bottom of the Channel. The story of the 111th's disaster and the persistent and heroic efforts made to save the one remaining gun is told in detail by Col. S. L. A. Marshall in his *Group Critique Notes* covering the D-day Operation at Omaha Beach:

The guns were afloat on the DUKWs by 0330 and by 0400 all LSTs were unloaded. Aboard each gun-carrying craft were 14 men, 50 rounds of 105 ammunition, filled sandbags and all essential equipment for set-up and maintenance. The "extras," imposed after the Battalion officers had already figured out a practical DUKW load, made the craft unmaneuverable from the beginning and these mechanical difficulties were intensified by the fact that not more than three DUKW coxswains seemed to know how to handle the craft in a high sea; the green hands frequently got their DUKWs broadside to the wind. A strong current was streaming toward the open end of the LSTs as the DUKWs shoved out; five of them were swung back by the current, became fouled in the ramp chains and were nearly capsized at that point. All DUKWs, however, got afloat.

The rendezvous area was between 400-800 yards from

the LSTs. All DUKWs started shipping water as soon as they turned toward it. Five were swamped and lost before they had closed on the circle—including the DUKW used by the CP and fire direction. In that DUKW, the motor failed, the bilge pump stopped and the DUKW gradually went under. Two of the gun-loaded DUKWs were lost the same way. The others sank in shipping a large wave while traveling crosswind. The Navy picked up all hands within a few minutes and the artillerymen were fitted out with Navy fatigues and helmets. They still wore these clothes when they got ashore. (The assault gas mask had helped greatly in keeping these men floating.) Four more DUKWs were swamped and foundered while circling in the rendezvous area. That left four DUKWs, and they headed for the shore, one without personnel.

A Navy LCVP, serving as guide, led this small column in at 0500. Said Capt. Jack R. Wilson: "We figured that if we got four guns in, we'd have a battery and that would help some." At least a part of the in-going journey was not too rugged. They came to the point where the APAs and LCTs [large transports and tank-landing craft] were lined up in column, parallel to the beach. The four DUKWs went down this aisleway and found it fairly smooth sailing. But they came to the end of the corridor and headed toward the beach—rightward. Then the waves hit them in the side again. Capt. Louis A. Shuford's second DUKW turned turtle. The guide LCVP picked up the floating men and started back with them. That left Shuford and Wilson with only a vague idea of their direction but they kept on going. The DUKWs stopped at every naval vessel and asked for directions. For about five miles they went on this way, groping for the beach. About 1000 yards from the coast, they came to a flock of other DUKWs, and Battery B's second DUKW got lost and strayed from the other two. This DUKW then went to within 500 yards of the beach. Its motor stopped. While the men were trying to get the motor going, a burst of machine-gun bullets opened up the side and the DUKW sank.

Shuford and Wilson kept on going. There were now two DUKWs. The two battery commanders were now bent on getting one gun ashore. Shuford's DUKW had an A-frame; this meant that they had a chance to get Wilson's gun, at least, landed on the beach. By about 0900 they were within five hundred yards of it and at that point as they looked shoreward, they saw no chance to proceed farther. They could see that the infantry hadn't moved and that they had no base. They lashed the two DUKWs together so that they could talk things over. "If we can get one gun in we might be able to destroy one pillbox," Wilson said. At that moment a machine-gun burst cut through the lashings holding the DUKWs together. Shuford said: "I think we better get the hell out of here." Shuford got his motor started and shoved off. But Wilson had gotten a bullet through his motor and couldn't follow; he figured he'd drift in. Then an artillery shell hit the breech-block of his gun, destroyed it and killed one man. Another shell came in and the DUKW started to burn and sink. Wilson told his men to jump and start swimming for an LCT. A log floated by. They grabbed it. A machine-gun burst shot it out of their hands. Three swam to the LST. Wilson and four others swam to the shore. Three others were drowned.



The crossroads at St. Laurent, where the 116th's 3d Battalion was held up on the afternoon of D-day

Shuford looked back and saw that Wilson wasn't following. He turned back. Enemy artillery fired eleven rounds at him but all of these shells were wide. He got to a Navy ship and wired Bush: "Where do I come in?" Bush radioed him: "Beach not clear; go to Fox." From the control vessel, Shuford then wired Beach Fox: "Where do I come in?" Beach Fox replied: "Don't come to Fox. Go to Easy Green." [Where Bush was.] Shuford got back in his DUKW and sought out another Navy ship. They told him they hadn't the slightest idea what he should do. He got back into the DUKW. It was then 1000 and he was a mile and a half offshore. He decided to mark time until he could find a Rhino ferry. He got to one within the hour and tied up alongside it. His men fell asleep on the deck at once. Shortly after, a deckhand came to Shuford and told him his DUKW was sinking. He got his driver and one other man; they climbed aboard and bailed, then started for another Rhino which was equipped with a crane. He asked permission to get his gun aboard. [Elements of the 7th Field Artillery were on this craft.] Then he pushed the A-frame from the DUKW and the gun was lifted up and given in charge of the 7th Field Artillery.

Not until June 13 was the remanned and re-equipped 111th Field Artillery, under command of Lt. Col. David G. McIntosh, ready to accept fire missions in support of the 116th Infantrymen.

SPREAD OF THE PENETRATIONS

It has already been noted that in two areas—one

east and one west of les Moulins draw—small groups of men had worked their way up the bluffs. Between 9:00 and 10:00 A.M., troops in these two areas of penetration numbered, perhaps, six hundred. The westernmost of these penetrations (between the Vierville and les Moulins draws) comprised 116's C Company; the 5th Ranger Battalion; A, B, and C Companies of the 2d Ranger Battalion; and fragments of 116th's B, F, G, and H Companies and the 121st Engineer Battalion. Nearly all of the men were in the fields near the edge of the bluff. The command group of the 116th had also come over the bluff in this general area, and attempts were being made to get the troops organized and into action. Long-range harassing machine-gun fire was hitting the area, together with some 88mm fire, but there were no enemy positions nearby. A small group of Rangers—a platoon commanded by Lt. Charles H. Parker—had already taken off on its own. Finding no enemy near it the platoon struck out for the Battalion assembly area west of Vierville, taking a course that would bypass the village on the south. The platoon, however, was halted in this flanking maneuver half a mile south of Vierville by enemy fire near the Château de Vaumicel and it sought for the balance of the morning to fight its way into the château grounds.

A coordinated movement of the main force finally got underway between 10:00 and 11:00 A.M., with the 5th Rangers ordered to swing south of Vierville and to advance to their assembly area while 116th's C Company and other units of the regiment headed into the village. However, before they reached the St. Laurent-Vierville highway the Rangers were halted by enemy machine-gun fire, and they spent nearly four hours attempting to find and reduce the hidden enemy positions. While the Rangers were meeting this opposition C Company with the fragments of other 116th companies (plus B Company of the 5th Rangers) moved into Vierville at 11:00 A.M. against only scattered small-arms fire and occupied the village. At approximately the same time a separate platoon of 116th's B Company, commanded by Lt. Walter Taylor, passed through Vierville and swung south toward the Château.

From Vierville Taylor moved his group up the road to the Château, and just short of that place drew fire from a field on the left. The group attacked with rifles and grenades. . . . One grenade exploded in a foxhole. A German screamed at top voice and that ended the skirmish. The other fourteen surrendered. He then moved his force up to the crossroads beyond the château. There they were stopped by the arrival of three truckloads of enemy troops who deployed in the field on either side of the position taken by Taylor's force, and began to envelop it. There was a fire fight and Taylor lost one man killed and three wounded. This cut his force to twenty-five men, and being without automatic weapons, he decided to fall back on the château. The Germans came on and attacked them there, but the walls were slotted and the enemy was driven back by well placed rifle fire. A group of fifteen rangers [Lt. Parker's platoon] then came in from the left and joined Taylor's force. . . .

During all this time Taylor's group had no contact with any part of the invasion. So far as they knew they were altogether alone, with neither support nor supply.¹

Company C of the 116th and B Company of the 5th Rangers left Vierville before noon and struck out west along the coastal road toward Pointe du Hoc. However, they were able to advance no more than five hundred yards before they were halted by strongly prepared enemy positions athwart the highway. All attempts to dislodge this enemy failed. At 5:00 P.M., however, the main force of the 5th Rangers, having abandoned their attempt to flank Vierville on the south, had come through the village and had reached the position where the attack had stalled. Plans were then laid to resume the advance with this greatly strengthened force, but the attack

was called off later in the evening owing to the precarious situation at Vierville.

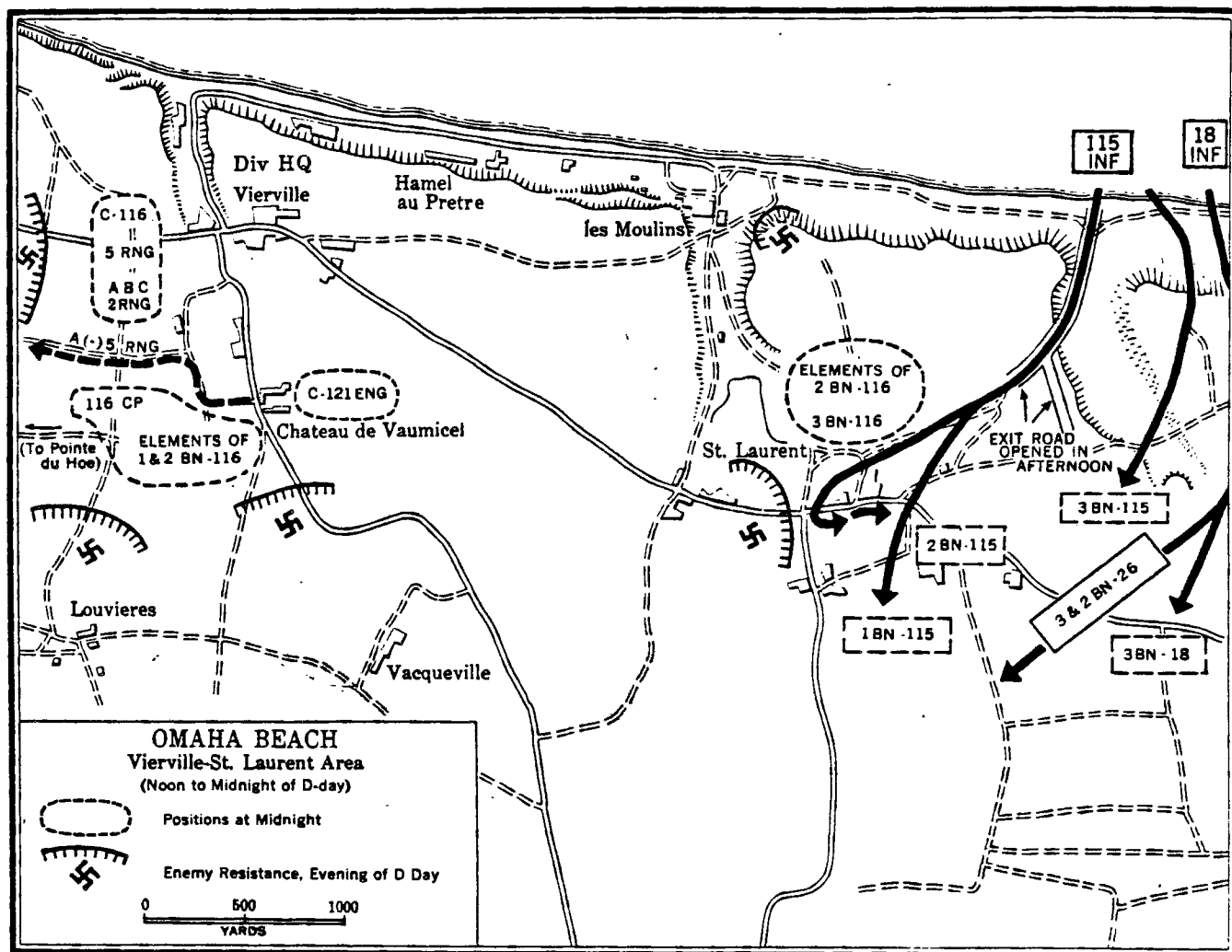
The command group of the 116th, (accompanied by the 116th's I&R Platoon), en route to its prearranged CP location southwest of Vierville, passed through the village about noon. When they reached their objective they discovered they were wholly out of contact with friendly forces: Patrols sent out to locate units of the regiment encountered only enemy. In this dire situation a platoon of the 5th Rangers was discovered in the area and was detailed to guard the CP. (It was not until 6:30 P.M. that Colonel Canham had word from his 1st Battalion, and not until midnight that he knew the 2d and 3d Battalions were at St. Laurent.)

A mile and a half east of Vierville the area of the other penetration was commencing to spread at approximately 10:00 A.M., as disorganized groups of the 3d Battalion headed southwest toward St. Laurent en route to its designated assembly area. No resistance faced them initially as they advanced across the open fields stretching toward the town. Small groups of men were constantly "joining up." Any group that saw a bigger one instinctively attached itself to it, but few of the groups knew exactly where they were as they moved inland. The advance of these scattered groups was halted near the outskirts of St. Laurent about noon. Most of the battalion was on the north edge of the town near the St. Laurent-les Moulins road.

Although snipers were active in the village, the main opposition came from what was estimated as a company of German infantry dug in in position to command the main crossroads at the head of les Moulins draw, west of St. Laurent. The 3d Battalion command group made strenuous efforts to reorganize its jumbled units. (A force of troops from F, H, and Headquarters Companies of the 2d Battalion, collected by Major Bingham on the beach was also in the area.) This force fought all afternoon with little success, the troops finding it extremely difficult to pick up the German gun positions in the heavy foliage of the hedgerows. M Company, which had spent the morning on the beach, rejoined the 3d Battalion in the afternoon but the Germans held.

Beach conditions began to improve late in the morning, with the gradual reduction of the strong-points still holding out on the bluffs. Tanks on the beach were playing a prominent role in this fight to

¹Group Critique Notes, Col. S. L. A. Marshall, War Department Historical Division.



Map 3

open the exits. They cruised about, pumping fire at the enemy, and even disabled tanks continued to fire their 75s and machine guns.

However, naval gunfire was restricted after the first landings because of the fear of hitting friendly troops, especially with ship-shore communication unreliable at that time. Even with this restriction, some casualties were inflicted on American troops by the naval guns. Most serious and most spectacular incident of this type was that of the destroyer that hammered the stretch of beach occupied by the command group of the 1st Battalion of the 116th from late morning to late afternoon of D-day. Without a radio to contact the destroyer Major Thomas S. Dallas, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, sent up orange smoke which was the prescribed signal for Allied planes for "Allied troops here!" He hoped that the destroyer would interpret this as a cease fire order. Unfortunately it did not. It only answered by throw-

ing several rounds in the direction of the smoke. Making signal flags of their handkerchiefs the men wigwagged to the destroyer: "We are Americans! Cease firing!" Back came the following message from the ship's blinker:

"Surrender to the Americans!"

This tragic misunderstanding continued throughout the day, and Major Dallas observed that he had lost more men during the afternoon to the American destroyer than to the enemy. After the machine guns in the area were finally stilled the beachmaster was able to get to his radio and stop the ship's fire.

LANDING OF THE 115TH

At 10:00 o'clock Col. Eugene N. Slappey, commander of the 115th Infantry, was ordered by V Corps to land the foot elements of his regiment and to advance to the prearranged assembly areas. The 115th was in the transport area at the time, loaded on

twelve LCI(L)s (craft designed for the carrying of personnel only), a reserve element of V Corps ready if the situation demanded to take over the mission of the 116th of the 16th Regimental Combat Teams.

The assigned landing target for the 115th was generally opposite les Moulins draw. However, naval commanders charged with the landing of the troops decided that this beach, presently under fire and still occupied by part of the 116th, could not possibly be used as a landing site. As a consequence LCI(L)s were beached a mile east of the originally designated landing site. At this point the enemy defensive fires were less intense.

The 1st Battalion landed eight hundred yards east of the east exit to St. Laurent, with the 2d Battalion landing on the right of the 1st, also east of the draw. Enemy small-arms fire had been eliminated on this portion of the beach and the mortar fires placed on it were obviously unobserved and not very heavy. The bulk of the 1st and 2d Battalions was on top of the bluffs before noon. The 3d Battalion, as regimental reserve, landed behind the 2d Battalion, and had reached the bluff top about noon.

Considerable intermingling of units developed on the bluff top when the 115th heading southwest toward St. Laurent, crossed the path of units of the 1st Division's 16th and 18th Infantry Regiments, which were moving southeast. "*Achtung Minen*" signs, which seemed to have been placed in every field, slowed the advance, but the troops succeeded in moving through this area, and headed in the direction of their designated assembly area near St. Laurent.

On reaching St. Laurent the 2d Battalion received fire from enemy positions in the town, and it spent the afternoon in a generally unsuccessful attempt to locate and reduce this opposition. Shortly before dark friendly naval gunfire landed in the town, causing some casualties to the battalion. Thereupon the battalion withdrew to a position south of the town where it spent the night near the 1st Battalion (which had passed through the eastern edge of the town and had crossed the Formigny-St. Laurent road). The 3d Battalion was in position about 1,500 yards due east of St. Laurent.

Shortly after noon the Engineers had opened the east exit to St. Laurent, allowing vehicles to move off the beach. Landing of other vehicles was then resumed. (The Vierville exit was cleared about 6:00

P.M. but German artillery firing on the site blocked the road again with fresh debris, and it was not until nightfall that traffic moved up this exit.)

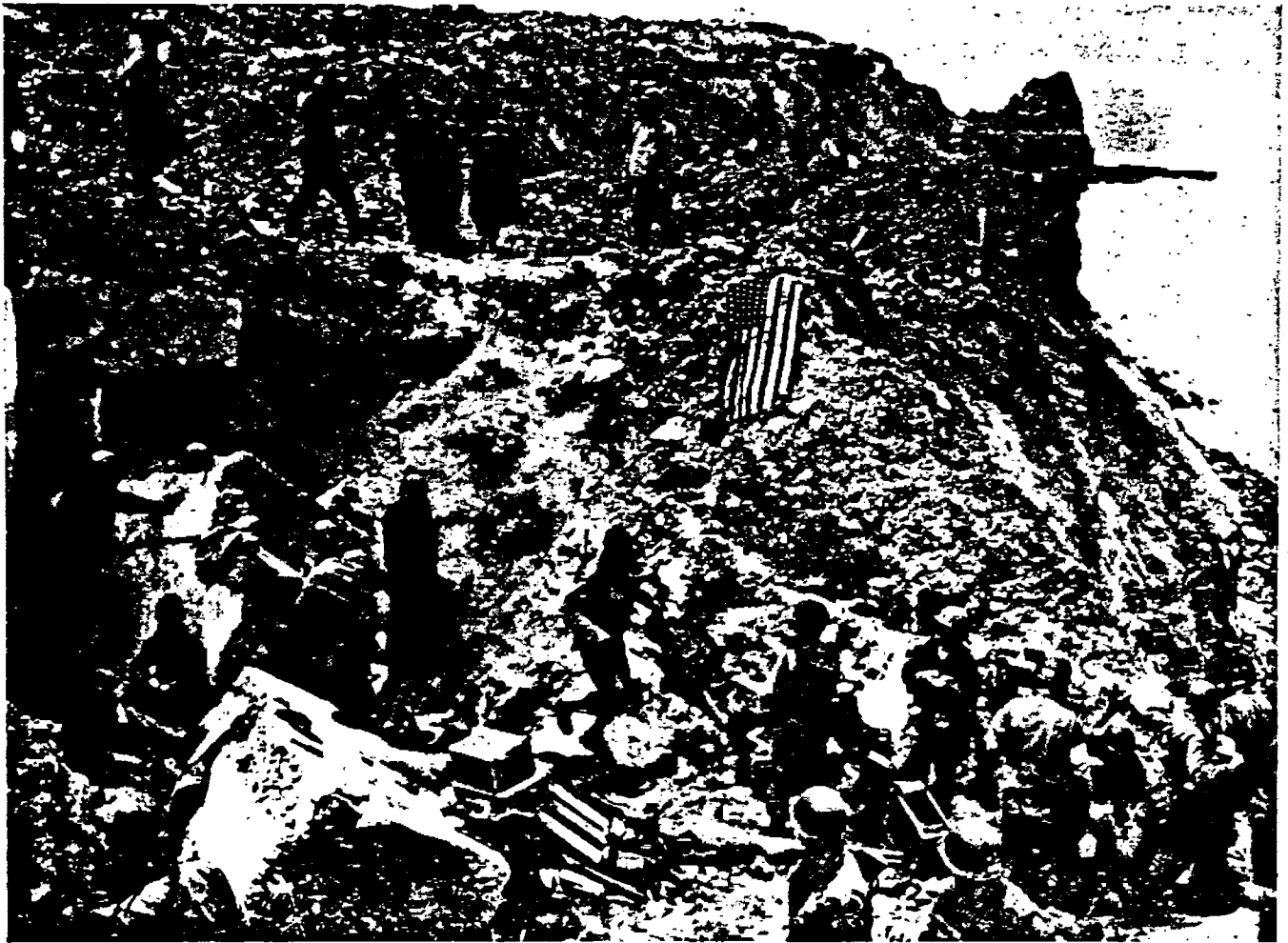
Reconnaissance, liaison and forward observer parties of the 110th Field Artillery Battalion had come ashore with the 115th, and their mission now was to find some guns somewhere to help the infantry. Radio communication with the main body of the 110th still afloat had indicated that no landing craft as large as the LCTs, in which the artillery pieces were carried, were being allowed to land.

Early in the afternoon Capt. Thomas F. Cadwalader, Jr., liaison officer with 115th's 2d Battalion, on reaching the northeastern edge of St. Laurent, located four self-propelled 105mm guns of the 58th Armored Field Artillery Battalion that had succeeded in getting ashore.

Finding that they had no functioning headquarters, observers, or communications due to casualties, Captain Cadwalader had light field wire carried by his party strung to these guns. Lt. Col. John P. Cooper, 110th Battalion commander had just met Captain Cadwalader, who explained the situation, when the Assistant Division Commander, General Cota, came up. Colonel Cooper announced that the 111th FA Battalion had been sunk in the landing and its commander, Lt. Col. Thornton Mullins, killed in action on the beach; that the 58th Field Artillery Battalion had suffered heavily, was disorganized, that its commander, Lt. Colonel McQuade, had been killed, and that as senior artilleryman on the beach he was ordered to utilize any guns belonging to anybody to support the infantry.

Lieutenant Pollarine, C Battery reconnaissance officer, and his party, which had landed with the 3d Battalion, 115th Infantry, with their wire and radio equipment became the fire direction center at the 58th's guns and all parties were notified that fire support was available by radio. There were no real observable artillery targets as German resistance was by individuals and small groups of snipers, and observation through the thick tree growth of the hedgerows was practically non-existent. A few "map" locations at crossroads and likely mortar or gun positions were fired on, but great care had to be exercised as the situation was very obscure. In the afternoon and evening, as well as the following morning, some self-propelled guns of the 58th were used at point-blank range to blast hidden snipers out of attics and steeples of the stone buildings in and around St. Laurent that were occasionally picking off our men.

Later in the afternoon the 32d Field Artillery Battalion, of the 1st Division, took a position near the improvised battery. To be certain that ample defensive fire power was available, particularly against a night counterattack, arrangements were made with the commanding officer of the 32d for mutual support, and Lieutenant Davis, reconnaissance officer of A Battery, with his party, which had landed with the 1st Battalion, was stationed at the 32d's fire direction center with a radio and a telephone line over to Lieutenant Pollarine about three hundred yards away. Naval gunfire



Command post of the attached 2d Ranger Battalion on the cliffs at Pointe du Hoe. Rangers look up from their chow while German prisoners are brought in. The flag is displayed for protection against our naval gunfire.

was brought into play a few times on a "map" basis only due to its area characteristics and lack of suitable observed targets. In this fashion the 110th's forward parties provided artillery support for the infantry.¹

THE 2D RANGERS AT POINTE DU HOE

Throughout the day D, E and F Companies of the 2d Rangers were engaged in a bitter and isolated struggle at Pointe du Hoe. This force of approximately two hundred men landed below the cliffs on their assigned target at H plus 40 minutes on a shell-cratered beach that measured scarcely 25 yards in depth. Immediately upon landing they commenced scaling the cliffs, using ropes and rope ladders which were fired to the cliff top by rocket guns and secured there with sharp grapnels. While the Rangers were engaged in this preparation Germans began appearing at the cliff top, from which point they dropped hand grenades and harassed them with rifle fire. The

Rangers neutralized much of this fire themselves, and the U. S. destroyer *Satterlee* came close to the beach to sweep the cliff top with her weapons. Five minutes after the first boats landed, the first Rangers were on the top of the cliff. Against only sporadic rifle fire, they reached the positions of the coastal batteries, only to find the emplacements empty. The howitzers had been hauled away by the enemy. Immediately strong patrols pushed inland toward the coastal highway, which connects Vierville with Grandcamp.

After brushing aside light enemy resistance these Ranger groups reached their objective, set up a roadblock on the highway, dug in, and waited for the 116th to join them, according to plan.

Behind this advance group, however, the main body at Pointe du Hoe was receiving strong opposition from small-arms fire within the battery positions and from an antiaircraft battery west of the Pointe.

¹History of the 110th Field Artillery.



The Division CP in the quarry near Vierville. The operations map is propped up within the roped-off area.

Further enemy enthusiasm occurred during the afternoon when two counterattacks came from the southeast, and although they were successfully beaten off, the Rangers' position remained precarious.

These Rangers were completely ignorant of the progress of the battle on the other beaches. The only contact between the main body at Pointe du Hoc and the advance group on the highway was by patrols which were able to fight their way through.

EVENING OF D-DAY





Late in the afternoon General Gerhardt came ashore with the 29th Division headquarters group, and a CP was immediately installed in a quarry on the east side of the road leading up the Vierville draw, about one hundred yards inland from the beach.

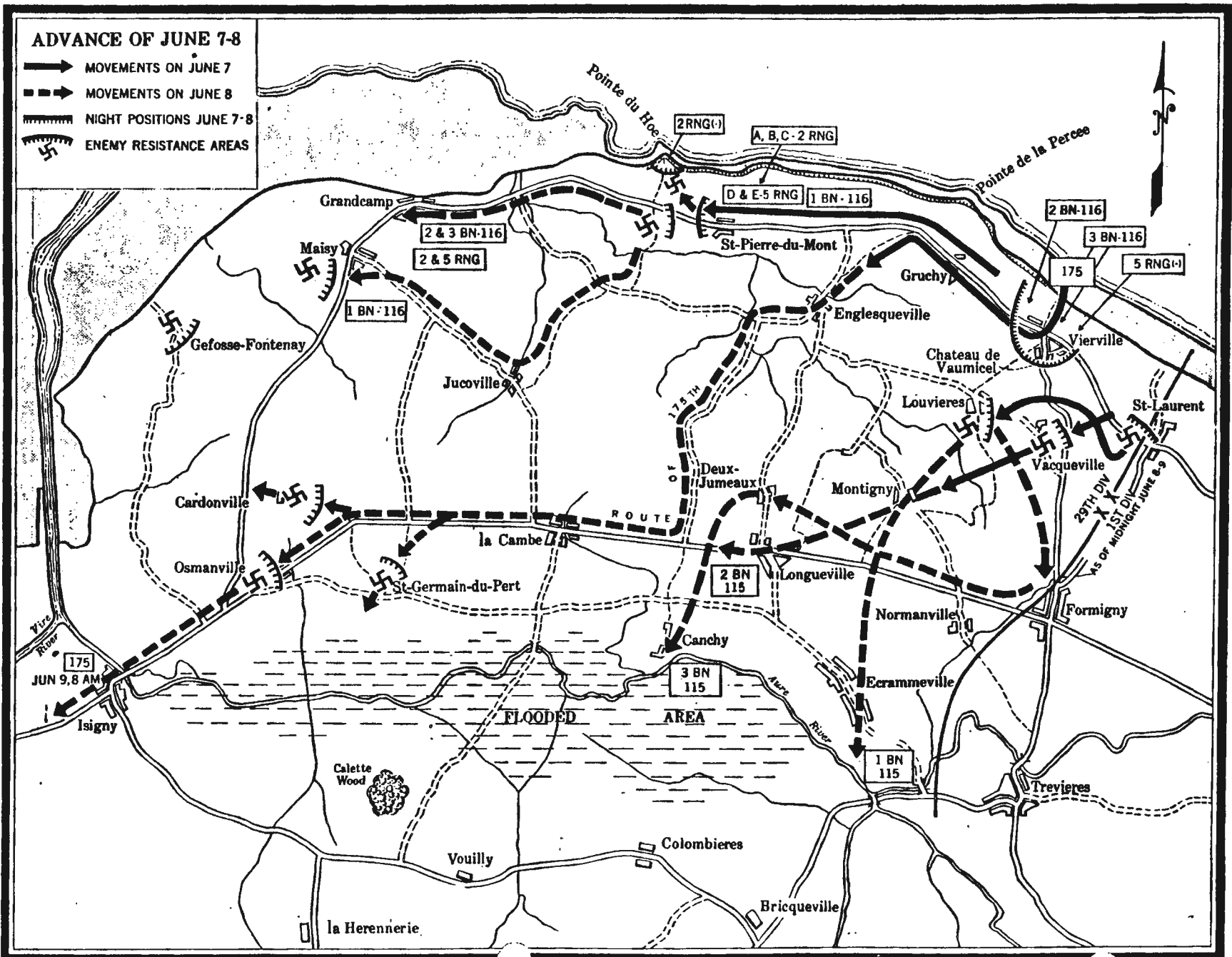
General Cota, who had been operating the advance Division CP near St. Laurent, made trips to the advance CPs of V Corps and 1st Division and sent back to the quarry information of the hazy but clearing tactical picture.

That night, however, no direct contact or patrol contact existed between the quarry and the 1st Division CP in St. Laurent, and communication was out. About 8:00 P.M. Capt. James L. Ballard, a liaison officer in the G-3 Section, was ordered to contact the 1st Division.

I asked for a volunteer to accompany me [Captain Ballard writes], and S/Sgt. Ted Josephs, Assistant Operations Sergeant, stepped up immediately. After receiving a few hasty instructions from the Chief of Staff, Sergeant Josephs and I started out. Sergeant Josephs as I remember it, was

ADVANCE OF JUNE 7-8

-  MOVEMENTS ON JUNE 7
-  MOVEMENTS ON JUNE 8
-  NIGHT POSITIONS JUNE 7-8
-  ENEMY RESISTANCE AREAS



armed with a rifle and I with a carbine and a pistol. I carried a map of our positions as we had them at the time inside my field jacket.

The night was very dark. Vierville-sur-Mer was lighted up, however, for the most part by fires which were still burning. We sneaked up the road to Vierville and turned left at the little intersection which comprised the heart of the town. This put us on the road running east to St. Laurent. When we had gone about four hundred yards past Vierville's outskirts a dog in a farmhouse off to the right front started barking. We hit the ground, lying perfectly motionless for what seemed ages.

After the dog had stopped barking I whispered loudly to Sergeant Josephs and we started again, sneaking along, sort of half on the road and half in the ditches which paralleled the roadside.

In about one-half hour—it must have been nearly 10:00 P.M.—we had gone another four hundred yards, I guess. Then suddenly I saw a man lying prone so close I almost could have touched him. At once he jumped up and darted a few feet to the right. Immediately I heard a sharp whistle and a volley of shots came in our direction.

Almost at once three men came toward me. I was lying prone on the edge of the road. The color of the road was dark, however, while the men coming toward me were silhouetted against the sky. When I hit the road I dropped my carbine, so I instinctively pulled my pistol and fired almost point-blank several times in rapid succession. Two men, shouting, fell to the ground. I don't know what happened to the third. It all happened so fast. I dashed to the right rear some distance and took cover in a field where I could gather my thoughts. I had lost Sergeant Josephs and thought him either killed or captured.

I reasoned that I had encountered either a strongpoint or a patrol and that it was more important that I report the presence of this enemy between us and the 1st Division than to attempt to get on to the 1st Division. I worked as quickly as I could back to the quarry and there found that contact had been established with 1st Division elements via the beach.

At dawn I commandeered a tank and set out on the St. Laurent highway to find Sergeant Josephs. When we had gone a mile or so Sergeant Josephs jumped out of a ditch and hailed me. I was never so glad to see anyone in my life. He said that he had lain deathly still practically all night right beside a group of Germans whom he could hear talking. The Germans had pulled out just before dawn.

At the end of D-day the 29th Division was disposed generally as follows:

The 175th Regimental Combat Team, as V Corps reserve, was still at sea.

The 116th's 3d Battalion and part of its 2d Battalion were northwest of St. Laurent. The 115th's three battalions were east, southeast and south of St. Laurent.

The 5th Ranger Battalion, A, B, and C Companies of the 2d Ranger Battalion, and C Company of the

116th were west of Vierville. Elements of the 116th's 1st and 2d Battalions, the 121st Engineers, and the 116th's regimental command post were half a mile south of Vierville. The strength of the enemy in the area south of Vierville was sufficient to present a real threat to this vital center of communications and beach exit.

D, E, and F Companies of the 2d Ranger Battalion were isolated at Pointe du Hoc opposed by a strong enemy force. Available artillery support left much to be desired. The 110th was not yet ashore; the 111th's guns were at the bottom of the Channel; the 224th was still afloat as part of Corps reserve, and the 227th had not yet landed.

The situation was far from reassuring. With its D-day objectives yet to be reached, the 29th Division held a shallow beachhead, nowhere more than a mile in depth. On the left flank the 1st Division, which had encountered heavy opposition on the landing beaches, had pushed inland across the important coastal highway, but this represented an extension of the beachhead to a depth no greater than the 29th's.

All along the line, from rifleman to division commander, a counterattack was expected. Nobody in the beachhead was aware at the time that the German high command had already adjudged the Omaha Beachhead as unimportant in the larger picture of its defensive mission. The German LXXXIV Corps, in fact, had announced at noon that day that the landings in the Vierville-St. Laurent area had been hurled back into the sea!

The enemy was most concerned over the landings in the British-Canadian area near Caen, and was preparing to throw heavy armor into a counterattack there, where the beachhead, although still shallow and precariously held, threatened to spill its armor onto the Caen plains. Already airborne troops of the British 6th Division held the bridges over the Caen Canal and Orne River, three miles inland.

The landing of the 4th Division on Utah Beach, favored by the lightest opposition of all the beaches, had developed into a substantial bridgehead with the town of Ste. Mère Église, five miles inland, already taken. The 4th Division had already established contact with the 101st and 82d Airborne Divisions, which had dropped inland six hours before the seaborne landings.

In this first day of fighting the troops of the 29th were facing a strongly reinforced foe, although at

the time they were unaware of this fact. The German 352d Division, which, according to all G-2 reports, was supposed to be in the St. Lô area waiting to rush into a counterattack against any landings, was by the sheerest stroke of fortune or misfortune, already near the beach. Several days before D-day it had moved up from the St. Lô area to participate in a counterattacking maneuver. Now it was deployed, regiments abreast, between Grandcamp and Bayeux. Its presence so close to the beach made the inland advance of the 29th and 1st Divisions more difficult, for a while, at least. But, on the whole, the Germans were to suffer from this forced and unintended committal of units of the 352d, for the division's counterattacking ability was now lost. No longer a reserve unit, it was now committed to a battle line that had nothing immediately behind it to provide reinforcement.

More than five hundred men of the 29th Division and its attachments had died since morning in the shallow beachhead. In the 116th alone, 341 officers and men were killed. Among the casualties of the 115th this day was Lt. Col. Richard C. Blatt, 1st Battalion commander, who died of shell-fragment wounds. Major James S. Morris assumed command of the battalion when Colonel Blatt was evacuated.

Assignments given the 29th Division for D-day plus 1 were as follows:

The 116th's 1st Battalion with the Rangers attached, to move west along the coastal road and relieve the isolated besiegers of Pointe du Hoc.

The 116th's 2d and 3d Battalions to consolidate their present beachhead and mop up the remaining resistance within it.

The 115th's 3d Battalion to clear St. Laurent, and the rest of the regiment to push on to Longueville.

COUNTERATTACK AT THE CHÂTEAU

Early in the morning of D plus 1 a local counter-attack hit B Company of the 121st Engineers in its positions about the Château de Vaumicel. The engineers were driven from the Château area, and some were taken prisoner. A description of the capture and the subsequent march to the rear is told in interesting detail by Pfc. Thomas R. Fitzgerald, an aid man with the engineer battalion, in the following account, based on his wartime diary written during his term in a PW camp:

There were five men in our medical group—Carter, Turner, Petricelli, Danniger, and myself. It was almost dark

when we found our CP, which was about a mile up the road on the far side of a small village called Vierville-sur-Mer. When we found the remainder of the company we bivouacked in a field along a hedgerow on the outskirts of the village. We were supposed to dig foxholes, but I was exhausted and just lay on the ground next to the hedgerow. It was about midnight.

I heard a few shots that sounded pretty close that night. One man was killed by a bullet about five yards from me shortly before I lay down to go to sleep. I was the last man along the hedgerow near the corner of the field and farthest from the road.

I don't remember anything until about 5:30 A.M., when there seemed to be a lot of shooting going on. I was kind of half asleep and thought I would get up in a few minutes and get my rations, as I hadn't eaten for about thirty hours, but I dozed off again until 6:00 o'clock. I was awakened by dirt splattering on my helmet and suddenly realized machine-gun bullets were hitting the dirt on the hedgerow a few feet above and on the ground around me. The next thing I knew someone was booting me on the rear and not too gently. I was annoyed at first, but when I turned around and started to sit up there was a machine gun a foot in front of my face, with a German standing over me. I got up quickly and pointed to the Red Cross arm bands I was wearing and showed him I had no weapons. I tried to act as calm as possible and kept my hands over my head. As I was the first to be captured I had to wait while they rounded up the rest of the men along the hedgerow. One sergeant had a machine pistol emptied into him. Another fellow I knew well was a little slow getting up out of his hole and was hit over the head with a rifle and pumped full of holes. Petricelli was one of the men captured. As I write this now, it seems funny, although at the time it wasn't. Petricelli was down in the hole in a queer position, with his head and shoulders behind and his rear end up, and when Jerry got to his hole he cracked him across the rear with the stock of his rifle to get him out of the hole.

They walked us across the field with our hands in the air and then lined us up along the road and searched us for weapons. Then they started us marching down the road. After going a ways our column was halted by a German lieutenant. There was a long ditch about four feet deep just off the road on the righthand side and he ordered a few of us to get down into it. Then he said something to a young German soldier who was with him and the soldier went off and came back in a minute with a submachine gun, the kind that has a folding handle. The lieutenant took the gun and started walking up and down along the ditch, looking down at us in the trench. We didn't know what he was going to do, but we all felt sure he was going to let us have it. I can't remember how long he walked back and forth but pretty soon a civilian car came up the road.

There was an officer in the car who outranked this lieutenant because he called the lieutenant over to him. The lieutenant came up to attention and saluted. We didn't know what the German officer in the car was saying but we knew he was giving the lieutenant hell. Then the car started up again and continued in the direction of Vierville. The lieu-

tenant gave his gun back to the guard. We were ordered out of the trench and started marching down the road again.

We didn't make much time because of our wounded and also because of the heavy artillery fire and strafing by Allied planes. We had to take cover in an orchard one time for two hours. We walked all day. All along the road we could see burned-out trucks and cars with dead Jerries in them. Every time we saw our planes overhead we would wave whatever we had so that they would know we were American prisoners. (The Germans didn't object to this.) There were about forty of us in the group. About 10:00 o'clock that night we were put in a building near a large creamery close to the town of Isigny. The French people who operated the creamery brought out milk and a cheese for us. While we were eating, planes started dive bombing nearby, blowing in the windows of our room. We spent a cold hard night in that building.

Early the next morning we were given a watery soup and some more milk and were started out again. We walked until about 3:00 P.M., when we were taken to a very small village for questioning. We were all put in a barn and then taken across the yard into a farmhouse, a few at a time. While I was being questioned we could hear planes overhead. Then they dived. Five bombs dropped between the house and the barn, where the rest of the men were. The German guards dropped their guns and ran for it. We all scrambled out across the fields to the road, and as I climbed the hedgerow onto the road I glanced back to see dozens of our men jumping the hedgerow in the same way. Tracer bullets from the planes were hitting all over the field. We all took off in different directions. Many of the men were wounded and several killed and a few buried alive in the barn.

After a few hours we were rounded up and put in a church. On the way to the church we met a group of Germans who were badly wounded from the strafing. As I had some of my medical supplies still with me I did what I could to help them, applying sulfanilamide powder and bandages. After leaving the church we marched until midnight before stopping for a three-hour rest. We had no food or water all day and what was left of the cheese we got at Isigny was lost in the bombing.

The next afternoon we arrived at a monastery near Tessy-sur-Vire. There were about nine hundred PWs at the monastery and we stayed here four days. We got a plateful of weak, watery soup here once a day and sometimes a cup of milk. We were hungry, dirty, tired, and unnerved. We had almost everything taken away from us. Some of the men even had their shoes taken from them. There were only a few razors for the entire nine hundred, and no soap, no cigarettes, no tobacco.

The enemy counterattack against the Engineers at the Château was alarming to Division Headquarters, and as a result a Ranger detachment with tanks was ordered to remain at Vierville to protect the town and its beach exit.

This readjustment of forces reduced the size of the force which was to go to the aid of the Rangers at Pointe du Hoe, but when the relief march began at

9:00 A.M. of D plus 1 approximately five hundred men and ten tanks were in the column.

D PLUS 1

By 11:00 A.M. the column, without being forced to deploy, had passed through St. Pierre-du-Mont, only a thousand yards from Pointe du Hoe, and was approaching the lateral exit road which leads to the Pointe. Here, however, interdictory fire near the road junction forced the tanks to withdraw. The relief force then re-formed at St. Pierre and moved out again, only to be met once more by heavy artillery along a quarter-mile stretch of the coastal highway near the lateral road. The 1st Battalion of the 116th received between 30 and 40 casualties in this shelling, which broke up the attack again. The entire column then withdrew to St. Pierre, where it spent the night.

Patrols got through to Pointe du Hoe that night and learned that two LCVPs had landed below the cliffs in the afternoon with food, water, ammunition, and thirty reinforcements, which brought at least a temporary improvement in the Rangers' situation.

Back on Omaha Beach the 116th's 3d Battalion combed the bluffs of all remaining resistance on D plus 1, and then formed up with the 2d Battalion at Vierville and set out for the town of Louvières, one mile to the southwest. Surprisingly strong resistance was met, however, and the battalions pulled back to defend Vierville for the night.

The guns of the 110th Field Artillery Battalion landed on D plus 1, C Battery coming ashore about 1:00 P.M., with the rest of the battalion landing about dusk. The batteries immediately went into position and fired some missions in support of the infantry.

C Battery's first attempt at landing, at about 10:30 A.M., was unsuccessful, as told by the 110th's historian:

The LCT landed on a runnel and the first two vehicles, with valuable equipment and maps, drove off into the deep water and completely disappeared from sight. Two more landings were attempted before it finally succeeded in getting ashore at 1:00 P.M., one gun being presumably lost in the surf. Sgt. "Pappy" Clemmons, the battery mechanic, refused to abandon the gun, remained behind in the artillery fire that still came down on the beach, borrowed a bulldozer from an engineer on shore, towed the gun out, repaired damages, and had it firing with the battery a few hours later in its first position near St. Laurent.

In the St. Laurent area the 115th's 3d Battalion, following a naval shelling of the Germans' strong-points west of the town, closed in on these positions,

(Dolan)
May 25, 1984
2:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stat. Dept. draft p. -2-

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

June 6, 1944

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

see letter from W. E. Henn - p. (1)

ibid; p. (5)

de p. (5)

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

I'll

list p. (5)

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

double check

CONFIRMED PER Col Caulfield w/ spoke with and is convinced she is total/genuine

see letter June 6, 1944 June 11, 1944

x5076

Kim W

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5/28/84

Ben Elliott:

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

Thanks -
Bob Krummelt

~~SECRET~~

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON



94 MAY 23 P 5:14 May 1984

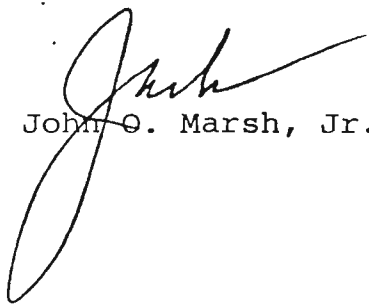
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

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

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

Thank you for your assistance in this effort.


John O. Marsh, Jr.

Enclosure

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED WHEN SEPARATED
FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)
2/19/97

~~SECRET~~

CLOSE HOLD

SEC DEF CONTR No. X30919

~~SECRET~~

~~CLOSE HOLD~~

TAB G

Possible Presidential Remarks at Omaha Beach

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

~~SECRET~~

~~CLOSE HOLD~~

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

By NARA

PR

Date

2/19/89

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

METHODS OF ECONOMY IN THE TECHNICAL SCIENCES

BY
J. V. NEUBAUER

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
THE AUTHOR

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
1957



UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

age hostile counterattack with another marine in an ade landed in his foxhole, comrade and rolled over body the full, shattering us and indomitable, Pfc. might be spared serious injury to duty in the face of ceremony and the U.S. Naval try.

ine Corps Reserve. *Born:* at: Labadie, Mo. *Citation:* the risk of his life above with the 2d Battalion, 28th against enemy Japanese forces Iano Islands, on 14 March other members of his squad fighting against infiltrating member of his unit alerted into their midst. Instantly himself on the deadly mis- the exploding charge in his les from serious injury. s willingly yielded his own the relentless battle against itering spirit of self-sacrifice est credit upon himself and ave his life for his country.

ate First Class, U.S. Navy, 4th Marine Division. *Place* 5. *Entered service at:* Iowa. *Citation:* For conspicuous gal- above and beyond the call 24th Marines, 4th Marine 5 and 16 March 1945. Al- g out the most dangerous le knowledge of the terrain nemy rifle and machinegun e 8 stretcher bearers who orward aid station on 15 party, carried the newly rendered first aid. After es, he stood in the open to blasting, enabled the litter 1 to the other 2 casualties. eding of 1 man when s ds away and wounded a save his patient. Pierce

deliberately exposed himself to draw the attacker from the cave and destroyed him with the last of his ammunition. Then lifting the wounded man to his back, he advanced unarmed through deadly rifle fire across 200 feet of open terrain. Despite exhaustion and in the face of warnings against such a suicidal mission, he again traversed the same fire-swept path to rescue the remaining marine. On the following morning, he led a combat patrol to the sniper nest and, while aiding a stricken marine, was seriously wounded. Refusing aid for himself, he directed treatment for the casualty, at the same time maintaining protective fire for his comrades. Completely fearless, completely devoted to the care of his patients, Pierce inspired the entire battalion. His valor in the face of extreme peril sustains and enhances the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

*PINDER, JOHN J., Jr.

Rank and organization: Technician Fifth Grade, U.S. Army, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Colleville-sur-Mer, France, 6 June 1944. *Entered service at:* Burgettstown, Pa. *Birth:* McKees Rocks, Pa. *G.O. No.:* 1, 4 January 1945. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on 6 June 1944, near Colleville-sur-Mer, France. On D-day, Technician 5th Grade Pinder landed on the coast 100 yards off shore under devastating enemy machinegun and artillery fire which caused severe casualties among the boatload. Carrying a vitally important radio, he struggled towards shore in waist-deep water. Only a few yards from his craft he was hit by enemy fire and was gravely wounded. Technician 5th Grade Pinder never stopped. He made shore and delivered the radio. Refusing to take cover afforded, or to accept medical attention for his wounds, Technician 5th Grade Pinder, though terribly weakened by loss of blood and in fierce pain, on 3 occasions went into the fire-swept surf to salvage communication equipment. He recovered many vital parts and equipment, including another workable radio. On the 3rd trip he was again hit, suffering machinegun bullet wounds in the legs. Still this valiant soldier would not stop for rest or medical attention. Remaining exposed to heavy enemy fire, growing steadily weaker, he aided in establishing the vital radio communication on the beach. While so engaged this dauntless soldier was hit for the third time and killed. The indomitable courage and personal bravery of Technician 5th Grade Pinder was a magnificent inspiration to the men with whom he served.

POPE, EVERETT PARKER

Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Marine Corps, Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division. *Place and date:* Peleliu Island, Palau group, 19-20 September 1944. *Entered service at:* Massachusetts. *Born:* 16 July 1919, Milton, Mass. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as commanding officer of Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Peleliu Island, Palau group, on 19-20 September 1944. Subjected to pointblank cannon fire which caused heavy casualties and badly disorganized his company while as-

assured the success of Com-

Army, Company F, 15th In-
date: Near Cisterna di Littoria,
Fort Meade, Fla. Birth: Fort
ber 1944. Citation: For con-
sk of life above and beyond the
is baptism of fire, preceded his
ion from which an attack could
ed strongpoint. After advancing
n by a machinegun only 5 yards
hot and forced the surrender of
dvance, he saw a German soldier
large bush pulling the pin of a
German with his rifle, Pvt. Mills
d captured him. When another
handgrenade into the draw, Pvt.
t under fire by a machinegun, 2
nge of only 50 feet, he charged
omatic fire shooting his M1 from
demoralized by Pvt. Mills' daring
t within 10 feet of their position.
e end of the draw, Pvt. Mills was
nner 20 yards distant. Despite the
t, Pvt. Mills killed the gunner with
the machinegunner fired wildly at
fired twice, killing 1 of the enemy.
aptured a fourth soldier. When it
the strongpoint would in all proba-
platoon, Pvt. Mills volunteered to
ditch to a point within 50 yards of
in full view of the enemy less than
red his rifle directly into the posi-
unned. The enemy centered his fire
hin inches of his body, rifle and
the rocks at his feet. Yet he stood
Intent on covering the movement
to the draw, reloaded his weapon.
lay down a base of fire. Repeating
platoon to reach the designated spot
it assaulted and overwhelmed the
nd taking the objective without

enant, U.S. Army, Company I, 121st
ice and date: Near Hurtgen. Gen-
service at: Carlisle, Pa. Birth: Wash-
ous gallantry and intrepidity at the
ond the call of duty, in action

volving actual conflict with the enemy on 21 November 1944, near
Hurtgen, Germany. S/Sgt. Minick's battalion was halted in its advance
by extensive minefields, exposing troops to heavy concentrations of
enemy artillery and mortar fire. Further delay in the advance would
result in numerous casualties and a movement through the minefield
was essential. Voluntarily, S/Sgt. Minick led 4 men through hazardous
barbed wire and debris, finally making his way through the minefield
for a distance of 300 yards. When an enemy machinegun opened fire,
he signalled his men to take covered positions, edged his way alone
toward the flank of the weapon and opened fire, killing 2 members of
the guncrew and capturing 3 others. Moving forward again, he encoun-
tered and engaged singlehandedly an entire company killing 20 Ger-
mans and capturing 20, and enabling his platoon to capture the
remainder of the hostile group. Again moving ahead and spearheading
his battalion's advance, he again encountered machinegun fire.
Crawling forward toward the weapon, he reached a point from which
he knocked the weapon out of action. Still another minefield had to be
crossed. Undeterred, S/Sgt. Minick advanced forward alone through
constant enemy fire and while thus moving, detonated a mine and was
instantly killed.

MINUE, NICHOLAS

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army, Company A, 6th Ar-
mored Infantry, 1st Armored Division. Place and date: Near Medjez-el-
Bab, Tunisia, 28 April 1943. Entered service at: Carteret, N.J. Birth:
Sedden, Poland. G.O. No.: 24, 25 March 1944. Citation: For distin-
guishing himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the loss
of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy
on 28 April 1943, in the vicinity of Medjez-el-Bab, Tunisia. When the
advance of the assault elements of Company A was held up by flank-
ing fire from an enemy machinegun nest, Pvt. Minue voluntarily,
boldly, and unhesitatingly, with complete disregard of his own welfare,
charged the enemy entrenched position with fixed bayonet. Pvt. Minue
assaulted the enemy under a withering machinegun and rifle fire,
killing approximately 10 enemy machinegunners and riflemen. After
completely destroying this position, Pvt. Minue continued forward,
forcing enemy riflemen from dugout positions until he was fatally
wounded. The courage, fearlessness and aggressiveness displayed by
Pvt. Minue in the face of inevitable death was unquestionably the fac-
tor that gave his company the offensive spirit that was necessary for
advancing and driving the enemy from the entire sector.

MONTEITH, JIMMIE W., JR.

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 16th Infantry,
1st Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Colleville-sur-Mer, France,
June 1944. Entered service at: Richmond, Va. Born: 1 July 1917,
Law Moor, Va. G.O. No.: 20, 29 March 1945. Citation: For con-
spicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on
June 1944, near Colleville-sur-Mer, France. 1st Lt. Monteith landed
with the initial assault waves on the coast of France under heavy
enemy fire. Without regard to his own personal safety he continually
moved up and down the beach reorganizing men for further assault.

He then led the assault over a narrow protective ledge and across the flat, exposed terrain to the comparative safety of a cliff. Retracing his steps across the field to the beach, he moved over to where 2 tanks were buttoned up and blind under violent enemy artillery and machine gun fire. Completely exposed to the intense fire, 1st Lt. Monteith led the tanks on foot through a minefield and into firing positions. Under his direction several enemy positions were destroyed. He then rejoined his company and under his leadership his men captured an advantageous position on the hill. Supervising the defense of his newly won position against repeated vicious counterattacks, he continued to ignore his own personal safety, repeatedly crossing the 200 or 300 yards of open terrain under heavy fire to strengthen links in his defensive chain. When the enemy succeeded in completely surrounding 1st Lt. Monteith and his unit and while leading the fight out of the situation, 1st Lt. Monteith was killed by enemy fire. The courage, gallantry and intrepid leadership displayed by 1st Lt. Monteith is worthy of emulation.

MONTGOMERY, JACK C.

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 45th Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Padiglione, Italy, 22 February 1944. *Entered service at:* Sallisaw, Okla. *Birth:* Long, Okla. *G.O. No.:* 5, 15 January 1945. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 22 February 1944 near Padiglione, Italy. Two hours before daybreak a strong force of enemy infantry established themselves in 3 echelons at 50 yards, 100 yards, and 300 yards, respectively, in front of the rifle platoons commanded by 1st Lt. Montgomery. The closest position, consisting of 1 machinegun and 1 mortar, threatened the immediate security of the platoon position. Seizing an M1 rifle and several handgrenades, 1st Lt. Montgomery crawled up a ditch to within handgrenade range of the enemy. Then climbing boldly onto a little mound, he fired his rifle and threw his grenades so accurately that he killed 8 of the enemy and captured the remaining 4. Returning to his platoon, he called for artillery fire on a house, in and around which he suspected that the majority of the enemy had entrenched themselves. Arming himself with a carbine, he proceeded along the shallow ditch, as withering fire from the riflemen and machinegunners in the second position was concentrated on him. He attacked this position with such fury that 7 of the enemy surrendered to him, and both machineguns were silenced. Three German dead were found in the vicinity later that morning. 1st Lt. Montgomery continued boldly toward the house, 300 yards from his platoon position. It was now daylight, and the enemy observation was excellent across the flat open terrain which led to 1st Lt. Montgomery's objective. When the artillery barrage had lifted, 1st Lt. Montgomery ran fearlessly toward the strongly defended position. As the enemy started streaming out of the house, 1st Lt. Montgomery, unafraid of treacherous snipers, exposed himself daringly to assemble the surrendering enemy and send them to the rear. His fearless, aggressive, and intrepid actions that morning, accounted for a total of 11 enemy dead, 32 prisoners, and an unknown number of wounded. That night, while aiding an adjacent unit to repulse a counterattack, he was

struck by mortar fragments and courage exhibited by strong enemy positions.

*MOON, HAROLD H.,

Rank and organization: Captain, 24th Infantry Division, 21 October 1944. *Place and date:* Taquerque, N. Mex. *G.O. No.:* 5, 15 August 1945. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 21 October 1944 near Taquerque, N. Mex. While leading a newly won beachhead position, he met the enemy's attack which quickly enveloped his positions. He was killed by enemy machinegun fire. He was the first to fire into the enemy, daringly exposing himself to the enemy's fire in the immediate area. A Japanese soldier was killed by an embankment, but Pvt. Moon was killed by enemy grenades. When the enemy was killed, he was the first to lead the remnants of the platoon, exposed while calling back the machinegunners, he was knocked out of the weapon and charged an aid man. By daybreak he was in the area for more than 4 hours, wounding the enemy and reducing it and killing its defenders with bayonets. Firing from a position, he threw a magazine into the advance. In a final display of bravery, he fired the machinegun which had been instantly killed, falling in the process. He was driven by the fiercest enemy fire found within 100 yards of his position. His sagacity, and magnificent courage, and magnificent actions against overwhelming odds, accounted for the successes during a most important battle.

MORGAN, JOHN C. (A)

Rank and organization: Captain, 326th Bomber Squadron, 28 July 1943. *Place and date:* Europe, 28 July 1943. *Entered service at:* Europe, 1914, Vernon, T. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, while participating in the capture of the European coast on the way to

intrepidity at
May 1944, near
abandoned enemy
singlehanded at-
Despite the in-
tly at him, Pfc.
momentarily in a
ough machine-
mm. shells ex-
ss made his way
egun and killed
ond machinegun
tko regained his
owning automatic
f this weapon he
Wheeling on the
killed the gunner
ed on Pfc. Dutko
second time as he
n. He killed both
owning automatic
falling across the

U.S. Marine Corps
ointed from: Geor-
iduity at the risk of
ommanding Officer of
Division, in action
t on Namur Island,
y 1944. Undaunted
ns, Lt. Col. Dyess
y of the assault, un-
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Japanese had been
ctory assured. While
ecting a group of in-
y position, Lt. Col.
fire. His daring and
n the face of terrific
aditions of the U.S.
ntry.

Corps. Born: 25 April
Other Navy awards:
Legion of Merit with
and conspicuous in-

trepidity above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer of the 1st Marine Raider Battalion, with Parachute Battalion attached, during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands on the night of 13-14 September 1942. After the airfield on Guadalcanal had been seized from the enemy on 8 August, Col. Edson, with a force of 800 men, was assigned to the occupation and defense of a ridge dominating the jungle on either side of the airport. Facing a formidable Japanese attack which, augmented by infiltration, had crashed through our front lines, he, by skillful handling of his troops, successfully withdrew his forward units to a reserve line with minimum casualties. When the enemy, in a subsequent series of violent assaults, engaged our force in desperate hand-to-hand combat with bayonets, rifles, pistols, grenades, and knives, Col. Edson, although continuously exposed to hostile fire throughout the night, personally directed defense of the reserve position against a fanatical foe of greatly superior numbers. By his astute leadership and gallant devotion to duty, he enabled his men, despite severe losses, to cling tenaciously to their position on the vital ridge, thereby retaining command not only of the Guadalcanal airfield, but also of the 1st Division's entire offensive installations in the surrounding area.

EHLERS, WALTER D.

Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Goville, France, 9-10 June 1944. *Entered service at:* Manhattan, Kans. *Birth:* Junction City, Kans. *G.O. No.:* 91, 19 December 1944. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 9-10 June 1944, near Goville, France. S/Sgt. Ehlers, always acting as the spearhead of the attack, repeatedly led his men against heavily defended enemy strong points exposing himself to deadly hostile fire whenever the situation required heroic and courageous leadership. Without waiting for an order, S/Sgt. Ehlers, far ahead of his men, led his squad against a strongly defended enemy strong point, personally killing 4 of an enemy patrol who attacked him en route. Then crawling forward under withering machinegun fire, he pounced upon the gun-crew and put it out of action. Turning his attention to 2 mortars protected by the crossfire of 2 machineguns, S/Sgt. Ehlers led his men through this hail of bullets to kill or put to flight the enemy of the mortar section, killing 3 men himself. After mopping up the mortar positions, he again advanced on a machinegun, his progress effectively covered by his squad. When he was almost on top of the gun he leaped to his feet and, although greatly outnumbered, he knocked out the position singlehanded. The next day, having advanced deep into enemy territory, the platoon of which S/Sgt. Ehlers was a member, finding itself in an untenable position as the enemy brought increased mortar, machinegun, and small-arms fire to bear on it, was ordered to withdraw. S/Sgt. Ehlers, after his squad had covered the withdrawal of the remainder of the platoon, stood up and by continuous fire at the semicircle of enemy placements, diverted the bulk of the heavy hostile fire on himself, thus permitting the members of his own squad to withdraw. At this point, though wounded himself, he carried his wounded automatic rifleman to safety and then returned fearlessly

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over the shell-swept field to retrieve the automatic rifle which he was unable to carry previously. After having his wound treated, he refused to be evacuated, and returned to lead his squad. The intrepid leadership, indomitable courage, and fearless aggressiveness displayed by S/Sgt. Ehlers in the face of overwhelming enemy forces serve as an inspiration to others.

***ELROD, HENRY TALMAGE**

Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 27 September 1905, Rebecca, Ga. *Entered service at:* Ashburn, Ga. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while attached to Marine Fighting Squadron 211, during action against enemy Japanese land, surface and aerial units at Wake Island, 8 to 23 December 1941. Engaging vastly superior forces of enemy bombers and warships on 9 and 12 December, Capt. Elrod shot down 2 of a flight of 22 hostile planes and, executing repeated bombing and strafing runs at extremely low altitude and close range, succeeded in inflicting deadly damage upon a large Japanese vessel, thereby sinking the first major warship to be destroyed by small-caliber bombs delivered from a fighter-type aircraft. When his plane was disabled by hostile fire and no other ships were operative, Capt. Elrod assumed command of 1 flank of the line set up in defiance of the enemy landing and, conducting a brilliant defense, enabled his men to hold their positions and repulse intense hostile fusillades to provide covering fire for unarmed ammunition carriers. Capturing an automatic weapon during 1 enemy rush in force, he gave his own firearm to 1 of his men and fought on vigorously against the Japanese. Responsible in a large measure for the strength of his sector's gallant resistance, on 23 December, Capt. Elrod led his men with bold aggressiveness until he fell, mortally wounded. His superb skill as a pilot, daring leadership and unswerving devotion to duty distinguished him among the defenders of Wake Island, and his valiant conduct reflects the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

***ENDL, GERALD L.**

Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, 32d Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Anamo, New Guinea, 11 July 1944. *Entered service at:* Janesville, Wis. *Birth:* Ft. Atkinson, Wis. *G.O. No.:* 17, 13 March 1945. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty near Anamo, New Guinea, on 11 July 1944. S/Sgt. Endl was at the head of the leading platoon of his company advancing along a jungle trail when enemy troops were encountered and a fire fight developed. The enemy attacked in force under heavy rifle, machinegun, and grenade fire. His platoon leader wounded, S/Sgt. Endl immediately assumed command and deployed his platoon on a firing line at the fork in the trail toward which the enemy attack was directed. The dense jungle terrain greatly restricted vision and movement, and he endeavored to penetrate down the trail toward an open clearing of Kunai grass. As he advanced, he detected the enemy, supported by at least 6 light and 2 heavy machineguns, attempting an enveloping movement around both flanks. His

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***EPPERSC**

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Pfc. Epper
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ERWIN, H

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Bessemer,
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on and continued un-
which he dropped his
he leave formation, but
r the crew to escape by
shed in flames after his
ation. By extraordinary
t. Col. Baker rendered
to our Nation.

Company A, 105th In-
aipan, Mariana Islands,
roy, N.Y. Birth: Troy,
r conspicuous gallantry
beyond the call of duty
1944. When his entire
weapons and small-arms
at commanded the view
rily took a bazooka and
y. Through heavy rifle
him by the enemy, he
company to assault the
vanced across the open
f concealment for the
position in the rear to
d came upon 2 heavily
s and 10 enlisted men
such superior numbers,
m. Five hundred yards
o had concealed them-
m. On 7 July 1944, the
ttacked from 3 sides by
y stages of this attack,
ed on remaining in the
ies as close as 5 yards
ition and with his own
nd combat, he was car-
who was then himself
be moved any farther
r than risk the lives of
it his request, he was
ee. Another comrade,
ed, insisting that he be
remaining 8 rounds of
was propped against a
Sgt. Baker's body was
apanese lying dead be-
ghest traditions of the

BARFOOT, VAN T.

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 157th In-
fantry, 45th Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Carano, Italy, 23
May 1944. *Entered service at:* Carthage, Miss. *Birth:* Edinburg, Miss.
G.O. No.: 79, 4 October 1944. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and
intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 23
May 1944, near Carano, Italy. With his platoon heavily engaged during
an assault against forces well entrenched on commanding ground, 2d
Lt. Barfoot (then Tech. Sgt.) moved off alone upon the enemy left
flank. He crawled to the proximity of 1 machinegun nest and made a
direct hit on it with a handgrenade, killing 2 and wounding 3 Germans.
He continued along the German defense line to another machinegun
emplacement, and with his tommygun killed 2 and captured 3 soldiers.
Members of another enemy machinegun crew then abandoned their
position and gave themselves up to Sgt. Barfoot. Leaving the prisoners
for his support squad to pick up, he proceeded to mop up positions in
the immediate area, capturing more prisoners and bringing his total
count to 17. Later that day, after he had reorganized his men and con-
solidated the newly captured ground, the enemy launched a fierce ar-
mored counterattack directly at his platoon positions. Securing a
bazooka, Sgt. Barfoot took up an exposed position directly in front of
3 advancing Mark VI tanks. From a distance of 75 yards his first shot
destroyed the track of the leading tank, effectively disabling it, while
the other 2 changed direction toward the flank. As the crew of the dis-
abled tank dismounted, Sgt. Barfoot killed 3 of them with his tom-
mygun. He continued onward into enemy terrain and destroyed a
recently abandoned German fieldpiece with a demolition charge
placed in the breach. While returning to his platoon position, Sgt. Bar-
foot, though greatly fatigued by his herculean efforts, assisted 2 of his
seriously wounded men 1,700 yards to a position of safety. Sgt. Bar-
foot's extraordinary heroism, demonstration of magnificent valor, and
aggressive determination in the face of pointblank fire are a perpetual
inspiration to his fellow soldiers.

BARRETT, CARLTON W.

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army, 18th Infantry, 1st In-
fantry Division. *Place and date:* Near St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France, 6
June 1944. *Entered service at:* Albany, N.Y. *Birth:* Fulton, N.Y. *G.O.*
No.: 78, 2 October 1944. *Citation:* For gallantry and intrepidity at the
risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 6 June 1944, in
the vicinity of St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France. On the morning of D-day
Pvt. Barrett, landing in the face of extremely heavy enemy fire, was
forced to wade ashore through neck-deep water. Disregarding the per-
sonal danger, he returned to the surf again and again to assist his
floundering comrades and save them from drowning. Refusing to
remain pinned down by the intense barrage of small-arms and mortar
fire poured at the landing points, Pvt. Barrett, working with fierce
determination, saved many lives by carrying casualties to an evacua-
tion boat lying offshore. In addition to his assigned mission as guide,
he carried dispatches the length of the fire-swept beach; he assisted the
wounded; he calmed the shocked; he arose as a leader in the stress of

the occasion. His coolness and his dauntless daring courage while constantly risking his life during a period of many hours had an inestimable effect on his comrades and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.

BASILONE, JOHN

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 4 November 1916, Buffalo, N.Y. *Accredited to:* New Jersey. *Other Navy award:* Navy Cross. *Citation:* For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action against enemy Japanese forces, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division in the Lunga Area, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on 24 and 25 October 1942. While the enemy was hammering at the Marines' defensive positions, Sgt. Basilone, in charge of 2 sections of heavy machineguns, fought valiantly to check the savage and determined assault. In a fierce frontal attack with the Japanese blasting his guns with grenades and mortar fire, one of Sgt. Basilone's sections, with its guncrews, was put out of action, leaving only 2 men able to carry on. Moving an extra gun into position, he placed it in action, then, under continual fire, repaired another and personally manned it, gallantly holding his line until replacements arrived. A little later, with ammunition critically low and the supply lines cut off, Sgt. Basilone, at great risk of his life and in the face of continued enemy attack, battled his way through hostile lines with urgently needed shells for his gunners, thereby contributing in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment. His great personal valor and courageous initiative were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

***BAUER, HAROLD WILLIAM**

Rank and organization: Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 20 November 1908, Woodruff, Kans. *Appointed from:* Nebraska. *Citation:* For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous courage as Squadron Commander of Marine Fighting Squadron 212 in the South Pacific Area during the period 10 May to 14 November 1942. Volunteering to pilot a fighter plane in defense of our positions on Guadalcanal, Lt. Col. Bauer participated in 2 air battles against enemy bombers and fighters outnumbering our force more than 2 to 1, boldly engaged the enemy and destroyed 1 Japanese bomber in the engagement of 28 September and shot down 4 enemy fighter planes in flames on 3 October, leaving a fifth smoking badly. After successfully leading 26 planes on an over-water ferry flight of more than 600 miles on 16 October, Lt. Col. Bauer, while circling to land, sighted a squadron of enemy planes attacking the U.S.S. *McFarland*. Undaunted by the formidable opposition and with valor above and beyond the call of duty, he engaged the entire squadron and, although alone and his fuel supply nearly exhausted, fought his plane so brilliantly that 4 of the Japanese planes were destroyed before he was forced down by lack of fuel. His intrepid fighting spirit and distinctive ability as a leader and an airman, exemplified in his splendid record of combat achievement, were vital factors in the successful operations in the South Pacific Area.

***BAUSELL, LEWIS**

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 1924, Pulaski, Va. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry in action, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 1st Marine Division on Peleliu Island, Micronesia, in the Pacific Area, on 24 September 1944. Placing himself at the front of the line, he moved forward against a heavy mortar fire on the beach and, as the enemy started firing his automatic weapons, he was hurled into the air by a mortar weapon, taking the life to save his men. His actions reflect the highest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps. He gallantly gave his

***BEAUDOIN, RAY**

Rank and organization: Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 119th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division, 6 April 1945. *Mass. G.O. No.:* 9, 2. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry in action, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 1st Marine Division on Peleliu Island, Micronesia, in the Pacific Area, on 24 September 1944. When the enemy was laying down a heavy mortar fire, he moved forward to the front of the line, laying down his weapons, laying down his unit to the ground. He was possible for his entire life. He then dug in himself and fired a steady fire, killing many of the enemy. Despite these defensive positions, he became more precarious as the enemy's reinforcements and was at intervals to obtain sniper fire. To relieve the situation, Lt. Beaudoin decided to move forward to the enemy sniper nest 90 yards from the runner's position. He fired a volley of bullets and secured the position. He relentlessly advanced toward the enemy, which threw mud and stones. He was killed by a uniform. Ten yards from the enemy, he was at point-blank range. He was killed by a third, who tried to blow him out of his carbine; he was killed by the platoon's rifle fire as he was running toward a dugout from a machinegun. His devotion to his respon-