

D-DAY PLUS 50 YEARS

REPORT

ON

OBSERVANCE OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
D-DAY INVASION

TO THE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

103RD CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION



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FOREWORD

On June 6, 1944, a military force of more than 150,000 American, British, and Canadian troops launched along a 60-mile front the most massive assault of its kind ever attempted in the history of the world. Their goal was the liberation of Europe and the preservation and restoration of freedom in the western world. The invasion was massive, brilliant and successful. It was one of the most significant events of the 20th century. Few events, if any, have had such a resounding impact on the course of American and European history. The invasion was the beginning of the end of the war against Hitler.

The D-Day assault involved 6,500 naval vessels and 10,000 aircraft. The five separate beaches—code-named by the Allied military Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno and Sword—where troops landed were fiercely guarded by German defenders. The approaches were filled with underwater obstacles. The beaches were heavily mined and strewn with barbed wire. High ground above the beaches was commanded by German artillery.

The loss in both personnel and materiel was extremely high. Many brave individuals successfully completed an impossible task. Theirs is a story that is a powerful part of both our past and our future. We owe much to our service personnel and allies for their courage and extraordinary efforts in bringing about the defeat of Hitler's armies.

During the week of June 30, 1994, the people of America and the Allied Forces paused to observe the 50th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion. I was honored to be authorized by Speaker of the House Tom Foley to lead a 27-Member Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to participate in many of the commemoration ceremonies in England, Italy and France.

The historic 50th Anniversary ceremonies had a special meaning for several Members of the CODEL who participated in the invasion. The Honorable Robert Michel, Minority Leader of the House, was part of the invasion force that landed on Utah Beach on D-Day plus 4. Some members of the delegation saw action in the European theater during the war. Others were involved in combat missions in the Pacific theater.

The CODEL was joined by Congressman Sam Gibbons, a member of the 101st Airborne Division, who parachuted into the Ste-Mere Eglise area the night before D-Day. Congressman Gibbons served as the official representative of President Clinton at ceremonies on Utah Beach and Ste-Mere Eglise on June 5. At both ceremonies, Congressman Gibbons brought greetings from the President and recounted his memories of D-Day.

We were moved by the remarks of President Clinton and other heads of State who participated in various ceremonies. Our Presi-

dent and First Lady were warmly received by the veterans and their families everywhere they went. It was a proud moment for all of us and for free people everywhere.

We especially enjoyed the opportunity to visit and talk with so many D-Day veterans who returned to Normandy to participate in the ceremonies and to again see their buddies who were with them when they met the enemy. The commemoration ceremonies on June 6, 1994, and the events the preceding week, made a lasting impression on all of us.

We are grateful to Speaker Foley for allowing us to represent the U. S. House of Representatives in honoring America's heroes of the Normandy invasion. Although the price we paid in the loss of young lives was terribly high, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and the invasion forces accomplished their mission. As Mr. Donald Boyce, a World War II Normandy veteran from Carmichael, California, and jumpmaster in a C-47 that dropped one of the first sticks of paratroopers on D-Day described it: "Somehow or other, a bunch of people who were only civilians went out and battled a professional army and made Europe free."

The success of the trip was due to the cooperation and support provided by several individuals whom the CODEL wishes to particularly thank: the Honorable William J. Perry, Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Togo D. West, Jr., Secretary of the Army; Major General Jerry C. Harrison, Chief of Army Legislative Liaison and Lt. General Claude M. (Mick) Kicklighter, coordinator of all WWII 50th Anniversary activities for the Department of Defense.

Our delegation also gives special thanks to Colonel John J. McNulty, Chief of House Army Liaison, and others who gave so much of their time and attention to the support and logistics for the trip, including Lt. Colonel Vincent E. Knapp, Major Noreen Holthaus, Major Foster P. Payne, Lt. Commander Nancy Fitzgerald, Staff Sgt. Michael Jones, Staff Sgt. Tony James, Staff Sgt. Gregory Biggs and Staff Sgt. William Spearman. Colonel McNulty and his staff worked continuously to ensure that our trip was successful and enjoyable. We are most grateful for all of the work they did to support the delegation.

This document contains the remarks of President Clinton and Prime Minister Major and other related information and material pertaining to the 50th Anniversary ceremonies.

Again, on behalf of all members of the delegation, I want to express our deep appreciation to the Speaker of the House, the Honorable Tom Foley, for allowing us to attend and participate in these historic events.

G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

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 RADM (Dr.) Robert C. J. Krasner
 RADM Robert (Bob) J. Natter
 Colonel John J. McNulty
 Lieutenant Colonel Vincent E. Knapp

Major Foster P. Payne
Lieutenant Commander Nancy Fitzgerald
Staff Sergeant Michael Jones
Staff Sergeant Tony James
Staff Sergeant Gregory Biggs
Staff Sergeant William Spearman

VII

PUBLIC LAW 103-257—MAY 25, 1994

108 STAT. 691

Public Law 103-257
103d Congress

Joint Resolution

To designate June 6, 1994, as "D-Day National Remembrance Day".

May 25, 1994
[H.J. Res. 303]

- Whereas June 6, 1994, marks the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day, the day of the beginning of the Allied assault at Normandy, France, during World War II;
- Whereas the D-Day assault, known as Operation Overlord, was the most extensive amphibious operation ever to occur, involving on the first day of the operation five thousand ships, over eleven thousand sorties of Allied aircraft, and one hundred and fifty-three thousand American, British, and Canadian troops;
- Whereas five separate beaches were assaulted, with American forces commanded by Lieutenant General Omar Bradley attacking Omaha and Utah beaches and British and Canadian forces commanded by General Miles Dempsey attacking Gold, Juno, and Sword beaches;
- Whereas American troops suffered significant losses during the assault, including over six thousand five hundred casualties;
- Whereas the D-Day assault was among the most critical events of World War II, with the success of the Allied landings in Normandy providing the foothold for the liberation of France and the eventual Allied breakthrough into Germany and leading ultimately to the Allied victory in Europe; and
- Whereas June 6, 1944, is one of the most significant dates in the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That June 6, 1994, is designated as "D-Day National Remembrance Day", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Approved May 25, 1994.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 303:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 140 (1994):
May 3, considered and passed House.
May 11, considered and passed Senate.





D-Day National Remembrance Day and Time for the National Observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary of World War II, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Fifty years ago on June 6, 1944, the largest armada of land, sea, and air forces ever assembled embarked on a great crusade across the English Channel to free the European continent of a tyranny that had taken hold and threatened to strangle the very freedoms we cherish most. Over 5,000 ships and 10,000 aircraft carried more than 130,000 soldiers, sailors, and airmen from the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Poland, France, Norway, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, New Zealand, Australia, Luxembourg, and Belgium to the shores of Normandy. More than 9,000 Americans never returned.

D-Day was considered crucial not only by the Allies, but also by the Axis powers. Field Marshall Irwin Rommel, commander of the enemy forces in the area, dubbed the first 24 hours as "The Longest Day," referring to the fact that if the Allies were successful in establishing a beachhead, many more units would follow, overwhelming the enemy in the West. However, for the Allied forces, June 6, 1944, was truly "The Longest Day" for a different reason. For the men who landed on the beaches that fateful day, each minute of combat was like an eternity as they were continuously bombarded by the unyielding Nazi forces.

But the enemy was unsuccessful, as the Allied forces had more than just their will to win urging them on. As defenders of justice, they were driven by the desire to restore the peace and freedom that the Nazi occupation had denied to millions of people. Anne Frank wrote of the impending invasion in her diary:

"It's no exaggeration to say that all Amsterdam, all Holland, yes the whole west coast of Europe, right down to Spain, talks about the invasion day and night, debates about it, and makes bets on it and—hopes . . . The best part of the invasion is that I have the feeling that friends are approaching. We have been oppressed by those terrible Nazis for so long, they have their knives at our throats, that the thought of friends and delivery fills me with confidence."

For Anne Frank, that deliverance never came, for she died in a concentration camp just months before the end of the war. But millions of others were delivered from oppression and fear. Those who landed on the beaches of Normandy, not only on D-Day but also throughout the rest of the war, were responsible for the liberation of many of the concentration camps as well as cities, towns, and villages throughout Europe that had suffered for so many years.

Thus, 1944 was a year of triumphs and sorrows. The Allies made great advances in bringing liberty to millions, while families and friends on the home front, faced with the knowledge that many of their loved ones would not return, continued to build the "Arsenal of Democracy."

It is to those millions of American men and women, veterans and civilians, those who came home from the war and those who made the ultimate sacrifice that we say "a grateful Nation remembers." We must never forget the high price paid by the valiant to ensure the freedoms of the many.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 303, has designated June 6, 1994, as "D-Day National Remembrance Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 6, 1994, as D-Day National Remembrance Day, and May 30, 1994, through June 6, 1994, as a Time for the National Observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary of World War II. I call upon all Americans to observe this period with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

REPORT OF HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY, TO THE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

INTRODUCTION

During the week of May 30, 1994, the people of America and the free world paused to observe the 50th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion. Speaker Tom Foley authorized the Chairman of the Committee to lead a 27-member Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to participate in commemoration ceremonies in England, Italy and France. The CODEL departed Andrews Air Force Base on Tuesday, May 31, and returned on Tuesday, June 7.

BACKGROUND

A GREAT AND NOBLE UNDERTAKING

(PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE)

Operation OVERLORD was unleashed on D-Day, 6 June 1994, as Allied forces stormed ashore along the beaches of the Normandy coastline. The assault represented the culmination of more than a year of intensive preparation and took place under the direction of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force. The Allied invasion plan called for the U.S. First and British Second Armies of the Twenty-First Army Group, commanded by British General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, to cross the English Channel and execute a coordinated amphibious assault involving 150,000 troops along a 60 mile front. The U.S. First Army was to land in the west on two beaches code-named UTAH and OMAHA. To the east the British Second Army, with the 3rd Canadian Division at its center, was to land on three beaches code-named GOLD, JUNO and SWORD. To help secure the critical invasion flanks, the Allies planned to employ three airborne divisions, the American 82nd and 101st on the western flank, and the 6th British on the eastern flank. Toward this initial effort the combined Anglo-American air and naval headquarters dedicated an armada of over 1 million troops, 6,500 naval vessels, and 10,000 aircraft. The stakes were high and failure could result in countless casualties and indefinite prolongation of the war.

The U.S. First Army, comprised of 100,000 troops and organized into two corps under the command of Lieutenant General Omar N. Bradley, invaded Normandy by both sea and air. VII Corps, commanded by General J. Lawton Collins, went ashore at UTAH Beach in the invasion's extreme western sector. With the 4th Infantry Division as its leading assault element, VII Corps had the initial mission of forging the invasion's right flank and preventing the enemy from reinforcing the port of Cherbourg. That accomplished, VII Corps would prepare to drive northwest to capture the port, a

crucial element of the planned Allied logistical buildup. In support of this mission, paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division were dropped south and west of UTAH Beach in the first hours of 6 June. To the east the V Corps, commanded by Major General Leonard T. Gerow, with the 1st and elements of 29th Infantry Division leading the assault, began landing soon after sunrise at OMAHA Beach. V Corps' mission was to successfully land two regiments abreast, drive inland, and attempt to create a unified invasion front by conducting a linkup with VII Corps to the west and with the British and Canadians to the east.

The assault was assisted by an overwhelming air and naval bombardment. Additionally, the French Resistance provided Allied commanders with precise intelligence concerning the enemy defensive posture and conducted numerous acts of sabotage designed to disrupt enemy communications and hamper troop movements. Despite these advantages, many obstacles remained. Enemy defenses, though damaged by the bombardment, remained substantially in place, well-positioned to inflict lethal harm on the attacking force. Cloudbanks and enemy anti-aircraft fire disrupted planes of the airborne drop while adverse weather and strong ocean currents wrought havoc on the landing craft formations of the beach assaults. To the benefit of some and at great cost to others, few units came ashore as planned. The situation worked in favor of the 4th Infantry Division which, by landing southeast of its intended targets, avoided strong enemy defensive works. Airborne troops were not so fortunate. Badly scattered in the night drop, they suffered heavy casualties. Despite these initial setbacks, the paratroopers regrouped and fought savagely to secure their objectives. As the VII Corps came ashore that morning, the paratroopers were already fighting to open critical inland beach exits, cut Cherbourg off from reinforcements, and secure the invasion flank. The success of the airborne effort was evident as troops of the VII Corps' 4th Division landed at UTAH Beach lightly opposed and quickly drove inland.

Further to the east, in the OMAHA Beach sector, the success of the UTAH landing was not repeated. Ocean currents wrought even greater havoc with the landing craft formations, scattering troop units, and disrupting carefully rehearsed assault plans. The assaults were conducted against elements of a German division, well-trenched on cliffs above the beach and afforded a commanding view of the Americans attempting to come ashore. Despite a massive preparatory bombardment, the strength of the enemy positions, many of which did not directly face the ocean, left the defenders well-prepared to resist the landings. The initial landing waves of the 1st and 29th Divisions suffered heavy losses in men and equipment. Valuable tanks and artillery pieces sank in the rough seas and confused troop formations were taken under heavy fire as they exited the landing craft. The results were grim, and for a time Allied commanders feared the OMAHA landings would fail altogether. Only with the help of precise naval gunfire and intrepid individual leadership on the ground did the troops begin to make progress. By early afternoon the Americans began to clear the heights of enemy resistance and the trickle of men off the beach became a flood. By nightfall V Corps, still lacking vital heavy

weapons and vulnerable to enemy counterattack, held a lodgement area large enough to support operations further inland.

At the price of some 6,500 casualties, almost half of them suffered at OMAHA Beach alone, the U.S. First Army successfully landed on the Normandy shore. At the close of 6 June, VII Corps held an area some 8 miles wide and 5 miles inland at its deepest point. V Corps held a still precarious beachhead 6 miles long and 3 miles deep. In addition to the 16,000 paratroopers of the air-drops, 57,000 Americans occupied the lodgement areas. To the east the British Second Army met with even greater success, securing more territory and landing over 82,000 troops. The Allied goal of creating a lodgement area large enough to land its powerful ground armies and mass of support equipment was virtually assured in a single day of fighting. Though much bitter fighting remained on the continent—at Cherbourg, St. Lo, Falaise, Huertgen Forest and the Ardennes—after D-Day the outcome of the war was no longer in question. Once firmly established on French soil, Allied forces quickly built up overwhelming strength in men and equipment. Against this array, the Germans, already fighting desperately to hold back the Russians in the east, could not prevail. The Americans who fought and died to win the D-Day beaches opened the way for the liberation of Europe and helped seal the fate of Nazi Germany.

CHRONOLOGY OF CODEL ACTIVITIES

MAY 31, 1994

On Tuesday, May 31, 1994, the CODEL departed Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, at 8:15 a.m. and arrived at Royal Air Force Base, Mildenhall, England, at 8:10 p.m. The CODEL stayed at the Churchill Inter-Continental Hotel, 30 Portman Square, in London.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1994

On Wednesday, June 1, the CODEL toured the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey. In the evening, Ambassador and Mrs. William Crowe hosted a reception at Winfield House, their residence in Regents Park. Winfield House has been the official ambassadorial residence since 1954, having been a gift to the U.S. Government from Barbara Hutton, heiress to the Woolworth fortune.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1994

On Thursday, members of the delegation flew to Italy and visited the U.S. and Allied cemeteries in Nettuno. While there, the delegation received a briefing on the allied invasion of Italy and toured the beachhead landing area. The Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial lies at the north edge of Nettuno, which is immediately east of Anzio, 38 miles south of Rome. The 77-acre site is located in the zone of advance of the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division. A temporary wartime cemetery was established there on January 24, 1944, two days after the U.S. VI Corps landing on the beaches of Anzio.

After World War II, the temporary cemeteries were disestablished by the U.S. Army. The remains of American military dead

whose next-of-kin requested permanent interment overseas were moved to one of the 14 permanent sites on foreign soil, usually the one which was closest to the temporary cemetery. More than 9,000 U.S. service personnel who died in the sweep to Rome are buried in these cemeteries. Many of the dead interred or commemorated there gave their lives in the liberation of Sicily (July 10 to August 17, 1943); in the landings in the Salerno area (September 9, 1943) and in the subsequent heavy fighting northward; in the landings at and occupation of the Anzio beachhead (January 22, 1944 to May, 1944); and in the air and naval operations in these regions. The permanent cemetery and memorial we visited were completed in 1956.

Following a briefing and a tour of the cemetery, members of the CODEL placed flowers on the graves of several veterans, some "Known Only To God."

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1994

On Friday, the delegation toured the Imperial War Museum in London. The exhibits, displays and movies give an unforgettable feeling of the terror of war and the misery it brings those engaged in combat. Delegation members of the Armed Services Committee were invited to lunch with Defense Committee MPs at Parliament. During lunch the group discussed the situation in Bosnia, the ongoing negotiations with North Korea, and other important issues relating to NATO at the time.

In the afternoon, the CODEL visited Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms. These Rooms, established in the summer of 1938 as the threat of war with Germany increased, lie 10 feet below ground in the basement of the Government Office Building, Great George Street. The space was chosen because of the extra security offered by the steel-framed structure of the building, the only one of its kind in London. The structure was the most significant portion of the underground emergency accommodation which was provided to protect Winston Churchill, his War Cabinet and the Chiefs of Staff of Britain's armed forces against air attacks during World War II. In addition, the Cabinet War Rooms served as an information and planning center and housed members of the Joint Planning Staff and Joint Intelligence Committee, who were responsible for preparing and coordinating combined strategic and operational plans under the Chiefs of Staff.

The Rooms were closed in 1945. In 1984, on the instructions of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, they were renovated and opened to the public by the Imperial War Museum as a permanent reminder of how Britain's embattled government survived and operated during World War II. These rooms were intended to be the place where Winston Churchill and his Cabinet would have planned the defense of Britain had the expected invasion occurred.

The delegation next attended the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces Commemoration Ceremony (SHAEF) at Grosvenor Square in London. The program for the ceremony follows:

*Supreme Headquarters
Allied Expeditionary Forces
Commemoration Ceremony*



*Grosvenor Square
London, England
June 3, 1994*

Call To Order	British Army Bag Piper
SHAEF Colors Posted	Joint/Combined Color Guard
<i>Stars And Stripes Forever</i>	Air Force "Ambassadors"
Invocation	Colonel Matthew Quinlan, USA, Chaplain
<i>Eternal Father</i>	Air Force "Ambassadors" with vocalist accompaniment
Greetings to SHAEF	Representative
Veterans from U.S. Congress	G.V (Sonny) Montgomery, Chairman, House Veterans' Affairs Committee
Reading of General	Representative
Dwight D. Eisenhower's Order of the Day	Robert Michel, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
<i>La Marche Lorraine</i>	Air Force "Ambassadors"
Reading of Churchill's	Mr. Winston S. Churchill,
Announcement to the House of Commons	Member of Parliament
Remarks on General	Stephen Ambrose (historian and Eisenhower biographer)
Dwight D. Eisenhower	

- The British Grenadiers* Air Force "Ambassadors"
- "Allied Cooperation, General George Joulwan,
D-Day Plus 50" Commander In Chief, U.S.
European Command/
Supreme Allied Commander,
Europe
- We'll Meet Again* Mrs. Dolores Hope
- Presentation of SHAEF Mr. Alan Reeves,
plaque to Mr. Bob Hope Commander, SHAEF
Veterans
- Benediction Captain Vincent Carroll,
USN, Chaplain
- Battle Hymn Of The* Air Force "Ambassadors"
Republic with vocalist accompaniment
(One of Winston Churchill's favorite
hymns)
- Laying of wreath on Mr. William Lahman
Eisenhower statue Mr. James Arnold
Mr. John Peters
Ms. Joan Simkin

Invited guests proceed to reception hosted by
the London Marriott Hotel

*Reception music provided by the band of the
Honourable Artillery Company*

Chairman G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery brought the following greetings from the House of Representatives:

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE MONTGOMERY

SHAEF Commemoration

Thank you for that very kind introduction and the opportunity to bring greetings from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Our delegation is composed of 28 members of the House. I would emphasize that sixteen of us are veterans of World War II. The rest are veterans of other military service or serve on important committees in the House. This is the largest House delegation ever to attend ceremonies commemorating the heroic efforts of the allies.

It is both a privilege and honor to have an opportunity to participate in these ceremonies. Today we pay tribute to those who played such an important role in planning the invasion of Europe and especially those brave comrades in arms who made D-Day such a military success. We also pay tribute to those who came after D-Day and fought across Europe to restore freedom.

I am very pleased to see so many veterans in the audience tonight. It is to you that we pay special tribute. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I offer a heart felt thanks for your valiant efforts. You are true heroes in every sense of the word. Your sacrifices have not been forgotten.

In closing, I would like to recognize one Member of our delegation who has a personal connection with Shaef. She is former Congresswoman Beverly Butcher Byron Walsh. Her father, Navy Captain Butcher was personal aide to General Eisenhower.

Thank you again for the opportunity to bring greetings from the House of Representatives. I salute you for a job well done. God bless America and God bless the Queen and England.

Minority Leader Robert H. (Bob) Michel read General Eisenhower's Order to the troops participating in the Normandy invasion.

Eisenhower's Order of the Day, June 6, 1944

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on the other fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed people of Europe, and the security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well-trained, well-equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our home fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

The Honorable Winston S. Churchill, Member of Parliament, read Prime Minister Winston Churchill's remarks to the House of Commons on June 6, 1944.

Churchill's Remarks to House of Commons

I have also to announce to the House that during the night and the early hours of this morning the first of the series of landings in force upon the European continent has taken place. In this case the liberating assault fell upon the coast of France. An immense armada of upwards of 400 ships, together with several thousand smaller craft, crossed the channel. Massed airborne landings have been suc-

cessfully effected behind the enemy lines, and landings on the beaches are proceeding at various points at the present time. The fire of the shore batteries has been largely quelled. The obstacles that were constructed in the sea have not proved so difficult as was apprehended. The Anglo-American Allies are sustained by about 11,000 first-line aircraft, which can be drawn upon as may be needed for the purposes of the battle. I cannot of course commit myself to any particular details. Reports are coming in rapid succession. So far the commanders who are engaged report that everything is proceeding according to plan. And what a plan! This vast operation is undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult that has ever taken place. It involves tides, winds, waves, visibility, both from the air and the sea standpoint, and the combined employment of land, air, and sea forces in the highest degree of intimacy and in contact with conditions which could not and cannot be fully foreseen.

There are already hopes that actual tactical surprise has been attained, and we hope to furnish the enemy with a succession of surprises during the course of the fighting. The battle that has now begun will grow constantly in scale and in intensity for many weeks to come, and I shall not attempt to speculate upon its course. This I may say however. Complete unity prevails throughout the Allied armies. There is a brotherhood in arms between us and our friends of the United States. There is complete confidence in the Supreme Commander, General Eisenhower, and his lieutenants, and also the Commander of the Expeditionary Forces, General Montgomery. The ardor and spirit of the troops, as I saw myself, embarking in these last few days was splendid to witness. Nothing that equipment, science, or opening this great new front will be pursued with the utmost resolution both by the commanders and by the United States and the British governments whom they serve.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1994

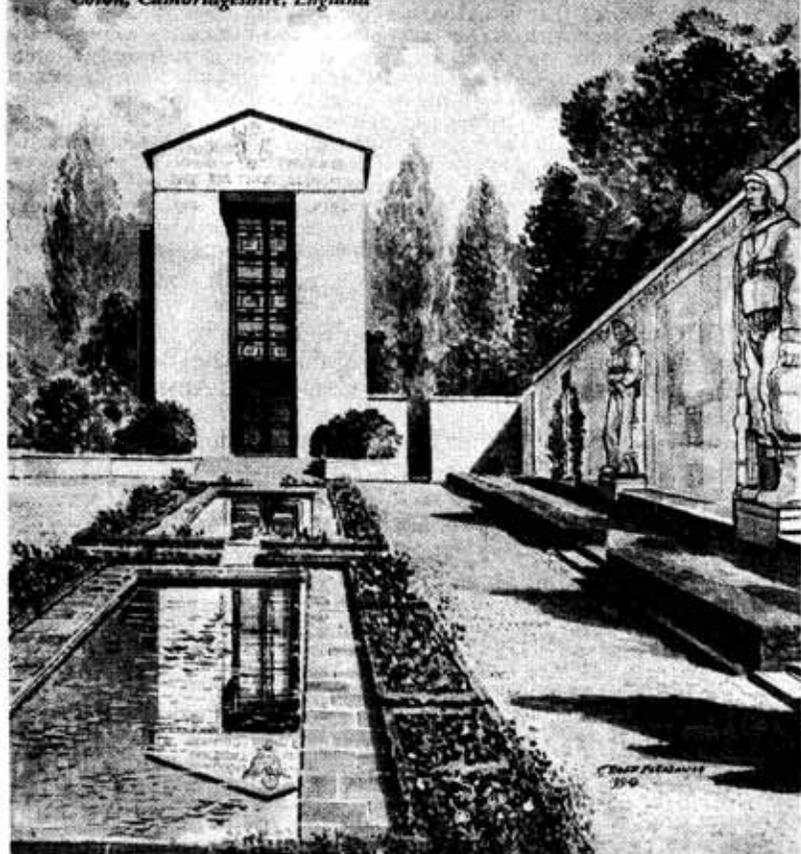
The CODEL traveled to Cambridge on Saturday to join President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister John Major for the Remembrance of the AAF Air Crew Ceremony at the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial.

The Order of Service and related materials for the memorial service follow:

D-Day 50th Anniversary Memorial Service

June 4, 1994

*Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial
Coton, Cambridgeshire, England*



Order of Service

Opening Remarks

*Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Johnny R. Almond
Memorial Service Master of Ceremony*

The British National Anthem

The United States National Anthem

*The United States Air Forces in Europe Band (Ambassadors)
(Words to Anthems on page 5)*

Invocation

*Chaplain (Captain) Gary R. Breig
Reverend (Squadron Leader) A.J. Davies*

Address

*The Right Honourable John Major, MP
The Prime Minister*

Introduction and Remarks

*James G.P. Crowden, Esq, KStJ, JP
Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire*

Memorial Note

Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Johnny R. Almond

Glenn Miller Musical Tribute

The United States Air Forces in Europe Band (Ambassadors)

Introduction

Mr Walter Cronkite

Introduction and Remarks

*The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
Secretary of the Treasury*

Introduction

*Mr Edward MacLean
9th Army Air Force Association President*

Address

The President of the United States of America

Memorial Note

Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Johnny R. Almond

Presentation of Floral Decorations

(List on pages 3 & 4)

Moment of Silence

Amazing Grace

The Grampian (Corby) Association Pipe Band

Memorial Note

Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Johnny R. Almond

Firing of Volleys

10th Security Police Squadron, RAF Alconbury

Flag Raising/Taps

Multi-Service Color Guard

Ambassadors Buglers

Fly-By/Missing-Man Formation

492nd Fighter Squadron

48th Fighter Wing, RAF Lakenheath

Benediction

Chaplain (Major) Alan M. Klein

Closing Remarks

Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Johnny R. Almond

Vintage Aircraft Fly-By

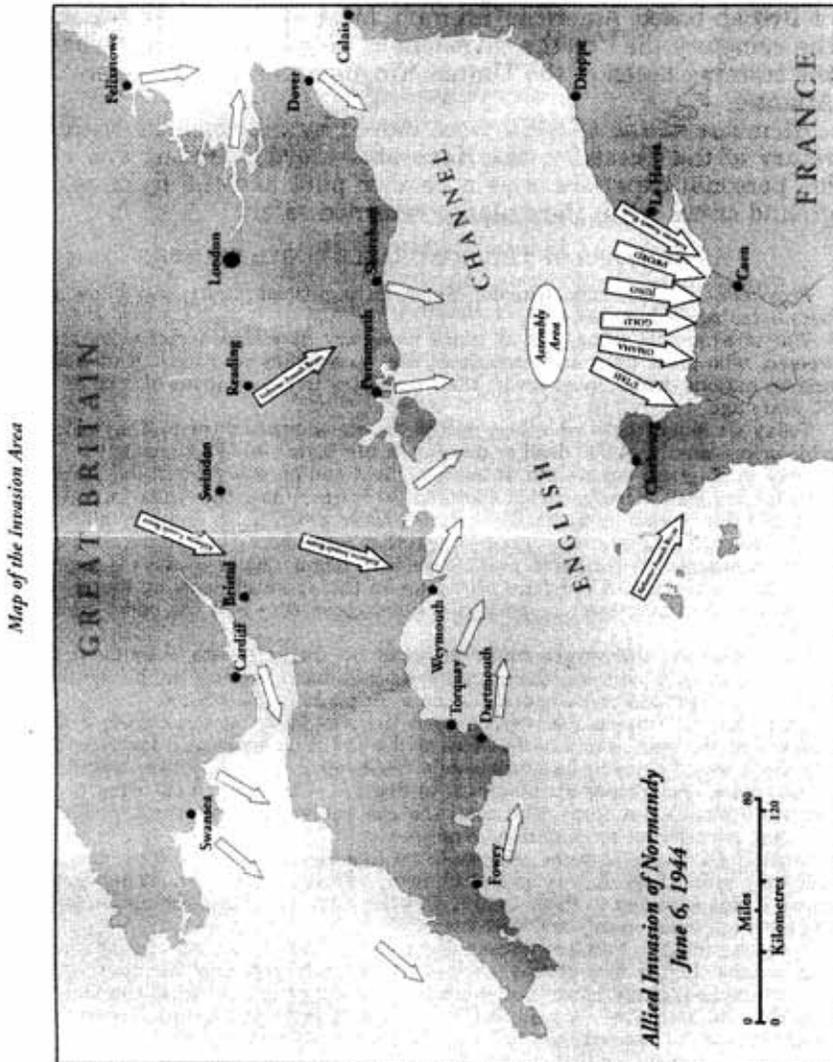
*This ceremony is conducted under the auspices of the United States Embassy, London,
and the United States Air Forces in the United Kingdom,
with the cooperation of various 8th and 9th US Army Air Force Memorial Associations,
British Friends, and the American Battle Monuments Commission.*

*Today's events were organized and directed with pride by the members of the
10th Air Base Wing (Team Alconbury), RAF Alconbury, RAF Molesworth and RAF Upwood.*

Wing Commander.....Colonel Peter W. Tkacs

Project Officer.....Colonel William J. Corbett III

Executive Chairman.....Lieutenant Colonel Charles D. Bowker



The cemetery is situated three miles west of the University City of Cambridge, and sixty miles north of London. This 30.5-acre tract is one of 14 permanent American World War II military cemetery memorials erected on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission. It was established as a temporary military cemetery in 1943 on land donated by the University of Cambridge. The site was later selected as the only permanent American World War II military cemetery in the British Isles and was dedicated July 16, 1956. About 42 percent of those temporarily interred in England and Northern Ireland during the war were reinterred in the Cambridge American Cemetery. Many of the 3,812 American

servicemen and women buried in this cemetery were crew members of British-based American aircraft. Most of the others interred at the cemetery died in the invasions of North Africa and France, in the training areas of the United Kingdom and in the waters of the Atlantic.

Members of the CODEL were moved by the remarks of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Honorable Lloyd Bentsen, who shared his personal experiences as a bomber pilot and the feelings of the ground crews when their planes returned safely.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE LLOYD BENTSEN

President Clinton, Prime Minister Major, distinguished guests, and fellow airmen, here listening, or here at rest.

War is a terrible thing, but at times necessary. It places demands on men and women, who must fight and sometimes die, on families who must wait and hope, and on nations, which must divert their resources to the weapons of war, as we did 50 years ago.

Today we honor those who flew, and those who supported them. They paid a terrible price—nearly 44,000 dead or missing in the Eighth Air Force alone.

Here in England—as we did at every airfield and on every front—boys grew into men far too fast. Here, airfields operated 24 hours a day, the Americans flying by day, and the British by night. They circled these green fields and assembled, heading for Europe in formation. Coming back, they were strung out across the Channel, fewer in number—a feathered prop, a smoking engine, holes in the fuselage where a gunner once stood. A red flare arcing up on the approach to bring the medics for the wounded. And green . . . green flares for those who beat the odds, made their 35 missions.

They squeezed the oxygen hoses to break up frozen breath clogging their face masks. They cranked down their landing gear by hand because the hydraulics were shot out. The ground crews cheered when their plane made it home.

That's how it was on the way out and the way back. At the target, a pilot six feet tall at the start would be five feet at the end from squeezing down in the seat. The flack would come up in black clouds. That flak gear—every flyer wished it was a suit, not a vest. Planes disintegrated in flight, a shell through the wing tank. One minute a plane's out front. The next, the one behind is flying through the debris, counting parachutes, praying they're not next.

Scared? Of course. Anyone who wasn't was either a fool or had no imagination. But they pressed on. It was love of country, and all it stood for, home, family, because it was expected of them. And it was the knowledge that the nation was pulling together, every family and friend, every farm and factory.

Numbing fatigue. Faceless danger. Fiery death. These were an airman's constant companions. In the face of this, these men not only flew and fought, they soared and triumphed. Many never had the chance to walk the land their sacrifice helped liberate. But they live on today on the wings of our dreams—dreams of freedom. Ever vigilant, courageous, heroes every one. May they rest in peace.

Those of us who flew had a job—take control of the air, shut down the industries, destroy the fuel supplies and refineries, cut the supply lines, support the landings. That took considerable time—two years of work before the invasion.

With us much of the way were men like Ed MacLean, a P-47 pilot who logged 95 missions during that long war.

Men like Ed MacLean took on extraordinary risks, alone, so that Europe could be freed. He flew escort missions for our bombers, shepherded our gliders to Normandy, and supported the 3rd Army. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with 16 clusters. Ed, on behalf of every bomber pilot who enjoyed the protection of our fighter planes, thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, Ed MacLean.

Before a backdrop of white crosses throughout the cemetery, President Clinton and Prime Minister Major reminded those in attendance of the sacrifices made by so many during the war.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND PRIME MINISTER MAJOR TO VETERANS OF THE AIR CAMPAIGN OF WORLD WAR II, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR GUESTS

U.S. Cemetery—Cambridge, United Kingdom

PRIME MINISTER MAJOR: We are here today to remember the servicemen from America and Britain, from Canada and other commonwealths and Allied countries who gave their lives for Europe's freedom. As Winston Churchill reached the end of his own long life, he encompassed their achievements with these words: "Our comradeship and brotherhood in war were unexampled. We stood together and, because of that fact, the free world stands."

"Brotherhood" was a word Churchill often used for friendship between the English-speaking people. On the very eve of D-Day, he wrote to President Roosevelt of "an absolute brotherhood between the forces." That spirit has served our countries valiantly over the intervening 50 years, in war and in peace.

It is rooted in trust. And to quote Churchill again: "In common conceptions of what is right and decent—a marked regard for fair play, especially to the weak and poor, a stern sentiment of impartial justice. And, above all, the love of personal freedom."

It is especially the brotherhood of airman to airman, soldier to soldier, and sailor to sailor that we commemorate at this time. Here, in Britain, 50 years ago, approaching D-Day, there were over one and a half million Americans on active service, under the command of General Eisenhower.

For a while, every 30th person in Britain was an American serviceman. In the European theater, more than 150,000 Americans, including 57,000 Airmen, lost their lives. Nearly 4,000 of them, mostly young men who flew extremely dangerous missions right here in this garden of remembrance in the midst of the English countryside. Over 5,000 more are commemorated in the Wall of the Missing.

Among them are a few who achieved fame. Some who, surely had they lived, would have been destined for fame. Many who were less well-known, and some who are unknown warriors.

All their lives were cruelly cut short; and to them, all of us owe a debt too deep to pay.

Some of you here today will have come to Madingly to remember close relatives. You will have endured the life-long pain of losing those that you loved. Some here today will be honoring the memory of wartime comrades. You, too, ran the same risks. You, too, were ready to make the same sacrifice. To all of you, I offer the very warmest of welcomes.

We remember today why those lives were given. Those who came here from America were not, as we were, protecting their homes and families. America was not under direct threat from Europe. They didn't come here for national glory, not for profit, not for material gain. They came, many of you here today came, above all, to defend the values which Britons and Americans hold sacred: to defend freedom and democracy, justice and human rights. To help liberate the people of Europe from tyranny and to seek to build a better world thereafter.

President Franklin Roosevelt wrote out for Churchill some lines from Longfellow which sums it up: "Humanity, with all its fears, with all its hopes of future years, is hanging breathless on thy fate."

Throughout the joint efforts of all the Allies, the fate of western Europe was resolved for the better in 1944 and 1945. But that mission didn't end in 1945. We have continued since to work together for our common values in the United Nations and in the Atlantic Alliance. We have had to make further sacrifices, some very recently—in the Gulf War, for example. Among those buried here is an American serviceman from that combined action. For, in United Nations peacekeeping operations in many parts of the world, and the courage and the selflessness which you and all of your wartime comrades showed half a century ago, are still vital in today's troubled world.

Mr. President, there could be no more fitting time, or, I believe, place or company for your first official visit to the United Kingdom. On behalf of all my fellow citizens, I would like to thank you and your fellow Americans for your friendship and your unstinting support throughout the last 50 years and more.

Whenever the going has been hardest, Britons and Americans have stood together in unity of belief. The peoples of Europe owe their freedom and their peace to those we honor this weekend, both the living and the fallen. Here, today, at this tranquil memorial and a thousand more, generations to come will give thanks for all that they did to give us this peaceful today.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Prime Minister and Mrs. Major; Mr. MacLean; Chaplain; Secretary Bentsen: thank you for your fine remarks. To our British hosts and to all the distinguished Americans who are also here; members of the Congress; the administration; the Armed Forces: we have come here today, all of us, on a journey of remembrance.

For some, like Secretary Bentsen, it was a journey to retrace time, to go back 50 summers and more when they took to airfields like these. For others, it is a journey to honor those who fought and those who died for the world in which we came of age.

In this moment, all of us are joined in a sense of pride, in a sense of indebtedness, a sense of wonder and a sense of determination to carry on that work and never forget.

On these ancient grounds, 3,812 Americans are buried, airmen, soldiers and sailors. More than 5,000 others are remembered on the Wall of the Missing. The names of some we honor echo still in our nation's memory. Names like Joseph Kennedy, Jr., the brother of our late president, a young man for whom a distinguished political career was predicted, who gave his life for our country. Or Glen Miller, whose wonderful Moonlight Serenade soothed a savage world and still makes us tap our feet.

In death, all these people on the Wall and buried behind us were equal. They came from every state in the Union. They were of many races and religions. They had names like Carillo, Kaufman and Wood. They were, all of them, Americans.

They fought to defeat a great evil which threatened to destroy our very way of life—what Winston Churchill called “the great principles of freedom and the rights of man,” which are the joint inheritance of the English-speaking world.

For long months Britain bravely carried that fight on alone. In the Battle of Britain night after frightful night the people of this beseiged island withstood this attack of Nazi bombers. It was their finest hour. Amid the horror the British looked west for help. Then the Yanks came, deepening one of history's profoundest bonds.

Overnight, it seems, tons of thousands of GIs filled the streets and camps across southern England. All these many years later we find the memories of many of them very vivid—smiling GIs tossing packs of spearmint gum to British schoolboys, new faces and funny accents at corner pubs, Lindy hops in London, kids from Milwaukee invited in for high tea, all in uniforms filling the pews at British churches.

America gave to England an infusion of arms and men and materiel. The British gave our troops the feeling that they were not so far from home after all. The British gave us inspiration; the Americans gave in return hope.

At every level Yanks and Brits worked together like family. American intelligence services built on Britain's brilliant successes which were pure chronicles in breaking the German code. General Eisenhower chose British marshals to be his deputies. Of course, Montgomery and Ramsay and Tedder. Roosevelt and Churchill, even as they led the assault on tyranny and rallied their own people to support the crusade, encouraged each other with personal notes, all shared a sense of friendship that sustained them through the darkest moments of the war.

All shared a faith that our people, nurtured on freedom, would rise to the call of history. Nowhere was our bond more important than in the air war launched from the green fields like this one. The Royal Air Force and the Army Air Corps joined in countless sorties to cripple the Luftwaffen, to decimate the Nazi war machine, to soften the Atlantic Wall. One British citizen remembered, for a thousand days, the sky was never still.

It was some of the most dangerous work of the war and the pales of valor still amaze us all. Pilots going down with burning flames to give all the rest of the crew just a few more seconds to get out. Of the two crew members who shared the only parachute on board as they jumped together from their burning plane over England. The Marauders, Liberators, Mustangs and Flying Fortresses, the Halifaxes and Mosquitoes. They were all sturdy. But as one American remembered, the flack sometimes seemed so thick you could walk on it. The wild blue yonder above Europe could quickly turn cold and gray and lethal.

In just the two months before D-Day, the Allied forces lost over 2,000 planes and over 12,000 men. Because of their sacrifice, by June 6th of 1944, the Allies owned the air. Under the shield of that air supremacy, our ships crossed the channels, our men crossed the beaches.

A few days after the Normandy landing, General Eisenhower stood on the beaches of France with his young son, John, recently a graduate of West Point, and told him: “If I didn't have the air supremacy, I wouldn't be here.” After D-Day, the Air Corps continued to fly toward freedom's horizon, until the entire continent was retained, and a world was set free.

The victory of the generation we honor today came at a high cost. It took many lives and much perseverance. After D-Day, it took freedom another year to reach the Elbas; it took another 44 years to reach Warsaw and Prague and East Berlin. And now it has reached Kiev and Moscow and even beyond. The mission of this time is to secure and expand its reach further.

The Airmen who flew these skies had a ritual that Secretary Bentsen mentioned—for signalling to their comrades on the ground at the end of a mission. As they were coming in for landing, if they fired off a red flare it meant that there were casualties aboard. And if they fired off a green flare, it meant some lucky pilot had just completed his last mission before shipping out.

Well, the generation that won the Second World War completed their mission, whether they walk among us or lie among us today. And after looking down in sorrow at those who paid the ultimate price, let us lift our eyes to the skies in which they flew, the ones they once commanded. And let us send to them a signal, a signal of our own, a signal that we do remember, that we do honor, and that we shall always carry on the work of these knights borne on wings. May God bless them and all our peoples.

Chairman Montgomery laid a wreath on behalf of the delegation. The delegation then flew to Deauville, France.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 1994

On Sunday morning, the delegation traveled to Utah Beach to participate in the United States Army Reserve (USAR) Commemoration Ceremony. The program for the ceremony follows:

**D-DAY
WWII 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

JUNE

1944



1994



**UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE
CEREMONY**

UTAH BEACH

5 JUNE 1994

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

ATTENTION

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

WELCOME

HONORS

U.S. AND FRENCH NATIONAL ANTHEMS

INVOCATION

REMARKS

**MAYOR OF STE MARIE DU MONT
CHIEF OF THE ARMY RESERVE
CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY
(KEYNOTE SPEAKER)
PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE
90TH INFANTRY DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE**

LAYING OF MEMORIAL WREATHS

MOMENT OF SILENCE/FLY OVER/TAPS

RETIREMENT OF COLORS

ARMY SONG

RECEPTION

The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Gordon R. Sullivan, was the keynote speaker.

REMARKS OF GENERAL GORDON R. SULLIVAN, CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. ARMY, USAR (90TH DIVISION) COMMEMORATION OF WW II, UTAH BEACH

We Remember

Congressman and Mrs. Gibbons; General and Mrs. Talbott; General Baratz; Mr. Mayor; veterans of the 90th Division:

Today I will be assisted by a distinguished soldier, himself a veteran of World War II, and a distinguished diplomat. He will assist me in my translation as he has assisted senior officers of the United States Army for years—Lieutenant General Retired Vernon Walters.

D-Day. Normandy. A time and place forever etched in your hearts and minds. You soldiers of the 90th Division, "Tough 'Ombres," who came across this beach, 6 June 1944 . . . a time of great victory; a time when you lost so many friends . . . when you saw such courage. We remember. We commemorate your service to your country.

I would be remiss if I did not note the men standing here in front of me, to your left, from the German Army, that you honored this morning. Thank you for being here.

D-Day plus fifty. Normandy. A time and place for us to honor you and pay our respects to those who forfeited their lives for a greater good. We remember. Allies, French Resistance who fought through the long, dark night of the Occupation and the Day of Glory mentioned in the Marseilles.

This is sacred ground: baptized with the blood of heroes; sanctified by the suffering of warriors; blessed by the tears of loved ones left behind. Fifty years have washed away the blood from these shores; but not from our memories. Indeed, the graves of your fallen comrades are the most visible and emotional symbol, the most powerful reminder and testimony of the enormity of the personal sacrifices that were made on behalf of generations yet unborn.

You remember the passage from Shakespeare where he wrote:

He that outlives this day, and comes home safe, will stand a-tiptoe when this day is named.

D-Day. 6 June 1944. We remember how you fought for the very survival of democracy. We remember how you died. We remember how you won freedom for Europe and for the world. We remember why you fought. On the back of the Victory Medal which all of you proudly wear, a simple message: "Freedom from fear and want; freedom of speech and religion." Turn it over; look at it—a simple medal. "Freedom from fear and want; freedom of speech and religion." For that you fought; your comrades died.

Those of you from the 90th Division, the "Tough 'Ombres," fought alongside your comrades, our Allies, to help liberate France. You epitomized the ethic of selfless service. Selfless service to Nation—the core value of the American soldier; the core value of soldiers everywhere. Selfless service to country. Not for self, but for country. To this day, your service inspires free people everywhere.

Today you represent the living memory of what happened fifty years ago. We are the beneficiaries of your sacrifice. Our hopes, our future were borne from your deeds. Each one of you is a hero. No words can describe the honor you deserve. You are symbols of courage, forever enshrined on the sands of these beaches and in the hearts of free men and women everywhere.

We salute you, the veterans of D-Day as well as our veterans of all wars with whom you share a common bond—selfless service—love of country—devotion to duty.

The words of Psalm 145 eloquently and reverently describe the profound sentiment of a grateful Nation:

What you have done will be praised from one generation to the next; they will proclaim your mighty acts. They will speak of your glory and majesty, and [we] will meditate on your wonderful deeds. People will speak of your mighty deeds, and [we] will proclaim your greatness.

Deeds of greatness, you say? Selfless sacrifice? Freedom from fear and want, freedom of speech and religion. What has evolved? The United Nations; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and all those things which bind us all together. That's what evolved from what you did here, that cold, windy, rainy day—those days—fifty years ago on this very ground. All that has evolved from what you did so that free men and women could live and enjoy the fruits of peace and freedom.

Thank you. God bless all of you. God bless America.

Following the ceremony, members of the CODEL walked along the beach with many veterans who came ashore during the early morning hours of June 6, 1944.

In the afternoon, members of the CODEL attended the 82nd/101st ABN Ceremony near Ste-Mere Eglise. The program for the ceremony follows:

1944 - 1994

Ste-Mere-Eglise Ceremony

(5 June 1994)

Pre-Ceremony Activities

Airdrop

Posting of the Colors

Invocation

Unveiling of the Commemorative Stamp

Assembly of Troops

Remarks

National Anthems

Airborne Soldier March to Ste-Mere-Eglise

Post-Ceremony Activities



Gliders of the US Troop Carrier Command land additional airborne infantry and artillery on the morning of 7 June 1944 to reinforce paratroopers already on the ground.

Along with thousands of others, the delegation witnessed a parachute jump by WWII veterans who had also jumped with their units 50 years earlier. The oldest veteran was 83 years of age. It was a most impressive sight, not only to see these old soldiers jump again, but to hear them talk about "how it was" 50 years ago. In recognition of these heroes, more than 500 members of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions jumped to the delight of everyone attending the event.

The CODEL ended the day by traveling to Vierville-Sur-Mer to participate in the National Guard Association of the United States Commemoration Program at Omaha Beach, where Chairman Montgomery made remarks extolling the importance of the citizen soldier to the D-Day effort. He said:

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE MONTGOMERY

National Guard Ceremony

As a guardsman, I would not have missed the chance to be with you today. I appreciate being given the opportunity to bring greetings from the 28 members of the House of Representatives delegation attending the various D-Day ceremonies in the Normandy area.

We salute those guardsmen who came ashore on this beach fifty years ago tomorrow, as well as all those guardsmen who fought across Europe to restore peace and democracy.

Throughout the history of our nation, the Guard has always been there when needed and answered the call to arms. Now more than ever the Guard is an important part of our total force.

On behalf of the Congressional delegation, I salute those who have worn the uniform of the National Guard in the past and those who wear it today. We thank you for a job well done and for your service to America.

In closing I would like to thank the people of Vierville for their strong support of today's ceremonies and hosting us for dinner tonight. We appreciate your kind hospitality.

Thank you again for this opportunity and God bless America and God bless France.

Chairman Montgomery and Mr. Michel laid a wreath at the monument honoring members of the National Guard units who participated in the invasion at Omaha Beach. Following this impressive event, members of the CODEL attended a reception and buffet dinner at the Vierville Chateau, hosted by the Community of Vierville.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1994

Monday, June 6th had special meaning for many Members of the CODEL. Members of the delegation who served in the Armed Forces during WWII attended prayer service ceremonies aboard the USS George Washington. The President gave the following remarks at a sunrise ceremony commemorating those lost at sea in the Normandy Invasion:

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT IN SUNRISE CEREMONY COMMEMORATING
THOSE LOST AT SEA IN THE NORMANDY INVASION

Aboard the USS George Washington

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mr. Rockwell, Mr. Secretary, Admiral, Captain Sprigg, Chaplains, distinguished leaders of the Congress, the Cabinet, members of the Armed Services, veterans, family and friends. This new and historically accurate dawn reminds us of that dawn 50 years ago that brought a new era, when thousands of warships assembled to begin Europe's liberation. Allied naval

guns unleashed a storm of fire on Normandy's beaches as the sky brightened to a cold grey. Legions of young men packed into landing crafts set out to take those beaches.

After more than a year of brilliant planning by General Eisenhower and his Allied staff and those who were here even before, and one agonizing weather-caused delay, D-Day arrived at last, exactly 50 years ago this day. We gather in the calm after sunrise today to remember that fateful morning, the pivot point of the war, perhaps the pivot point of the 20th century.

But we should never forget that at this hour on June 6th, 1944, victory seemed far from certain. The weather was menacing, the seas were churning, the enemy was dug in. Though the plans had been prepared in great detail, chaos of battle can overwhelm the best-laid plans, and for some of our units the plans went awry. Indeed, General Eisenhower had already drafted a statement in case the operation did not succeed.

As H-Hour approached, everyone in the invasion was forced to prepare in his own way. We know now from the records then that some soldiers and sailors wrote to their wives back home, or to children they had never held. Some played dice, hoping for a string of good luck. Others tried to read, and many simply prayed. One Jewish officer, Captain Irving Gray, asked the chaplain on his landing craft to lead a prayer: "To the God in whom we all believe, whether Protestant or Catholic or Jew that our mission might be accomplished and that we may be brought safely home again."

Back home, as news of the invasion reached our fellow Americans, Americans spoke softly to God. In one Brooklyn shipyard, welders knelt down on the decks of their liberty ship and said together The Lord's Prayer. The soldiers who landed on Utah and Omaha needed those prayers, for they entered a scene of terrible carnage. Thousands would never return. For those who did, it was faith in their Maker's mercy and their own ability that helped to carry the day. It was also raw courage and love of freedom and country.

One of the most stirring tales of D-Day is that to which the Secretary of the Navy has already referred—the tale of the *USS Corry*. Ripped by mines while blasting enemy positions on Utah Beach, the *Corry* began to go under. But one man stayed aboard. He climbed the stern, removed the flag, and swam and scrambled to the main mast. There, he ran up the flag. And as he swam off, our flag opened into the breeze. In the *Corry's* destruction, there was no defeat. Today, the wreckage of that ship lies directly beneath us—an unseen monument to those who helped to win this great war. Thirteen of the *Corry's* crew rest there as well, and these waters are forever sanctified by their sacrifice.

Fifty years ago, General Eisenhower concluded his order of the day with these words: "Let us all beseech the blessing of the almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking." As we begin this new day of remembrance, let us also as God's blessing: for all those who died for freedom 50 years ago, and for the Americans who carry on their noble work today. May God bless them, and may God bless America.

The CODEL arrived at Utah Beach at 9 a.m., where delegation members joined President and Mrs. Clinton and President and Mrs. Francois Mitterrand, for the US/French Bilateral Commemoration Ceremony. The program for the ceremony follows:

1944 - 1994

Utah Beach Ceremony

(6 June 1994)

Pre-Ceremony Activities

Posting of the Colors

Rendering of Honors

National Anthems

Invocation

Laying of the Memorial Wreaths

Fly - Over

Pass and Review

Remarks

Benediction

Post-Ceremony Activities



The UTAH Beach of 50 years ago streams with enemy beach obstacles designed to hinder the troop landings. This obstacle consists of a stake with a teller mine fastened to the top.

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

*6th June 1994**Dear Friends,*

France is happy and proud to welcome the veterans of the Western Allied troops who, fifty years ago, came to mingle their blood with that of her sons.

War was raging throughout Europe : to the east, where the Russian offensive was about to start up again along a 1,500 kilometer front ; to the south, where the fall of Rome on 4th June set the armies of Italy free for other tasks. However, as soon as Operation Overlord was launched, all eyes turned to five Normandy beaches, where the fate of the war would be sealed, where several thousand men succeeded in landing, soon to be followed by tens of thousands of others ; but what anguish during the first hours, the first days, what prodigious acts of bravery and tenacity were accomplished by men to succeed in an undertaking that no-one had ever attempted before 6th June 1944.

To those who, fifty years later, have come to pay their respects at the graves of their fallen comrades, or to see again together the theatre of so much glory and so much suffering, I express the gratitude of France. Welcome !

François Mitterrand

LIST OF MONARCHS, HEADS OF STATE AND OF GOVERNMENT
PRESENT ON 6TH JUNE

- AUSTRALIA: Prime Minister Paul Keating
- BELGIUM: H.M. King Albert II,
H.M. Queen Paola,
Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene
- CANADA: Governor-General Hon. Ramon
Hnatyshyn
Prime Minister Jean Chrétien
- CZECH REPUBLIC: President Vaclav Havel
- LUXEMBOURG: H.R.H. the Grand Duke and
H.R.H. the Grand Duchess
Prime Minister Jacques Santer
- NETHERLANDS: H.M. Queen Beatrix
Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers
- NEW ZEALAND: Prime Minister Jim Bolger
- NORWAY: H.M. King Harald V
- POLAND: President Lech Walesa
- SLOVAK REPUBLIC: President Michal Kovak
- UNITED KINGDOM: H.M. Queen Elizabeth II
H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh
Prime Minister John Major
- UNITED STATES: President William Clinton
Mrs. Clinton

President Mitterrand and President Clinton expressed the gratitude of both nations for the sacrifices made by the Allied Forces who fought together this day to help bring about the end of World War II.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT UTAH BEACH CEREMONY

Normandy, France

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Thank you very much, General Talbott, Secretary Perry, Secretary Brown. Let me begin by asking all the veterans here present, their families, their friends, the people from France who have been wonderful hosts to us, to acknowledge those who worked so hard to make these D-Day ceremonies a great success—General Joulwan, the SAC here, and his European command, 2,700 members of Armed Forces who worked to put these events together; and the Secretary of the Army's World War II commemorative committee, General Mick Kicklighter and all of his committee. Let's give them a big hand; they have done a wonderful job. (Applause.)

My fellow Americans, we have gathered to remember those who stormed this beach for freedom who never came home. We pay tribute to what a whole generation of heroes won here. But let us also recall what was lost here. We must never forget that thousands of people gave everything they were, or what they might have become, so that freedom might live.

The loss along this coastline numbs us still. In one U.S. company alone, 197 of 205 men were slaughtered in just 10 minutes. Hundreds of young men died before they could struggle 20 feet into the red-tinged tide. Thousands upon thousands of American, Canadian and British troops were killed or wounded on one brutal day.

But in the face of that mayhem emerged the confident clarity borne of relentless training and the guiding light of a just cause. Here at Utah Beach, with the Army's 4th Division in the lead, the Allies unleashed their democratic fury on the Nazi armies.

So many of them landed in the wrong place, they found their way. When one commanding officer, Russell "Red" Reeder, discovered the error, he said, "It doesn't matter. We know where to go."

Here to help point the way were the fighters of the French resistance. We must never forget how much those who lived under the Nazi fist did to make D-Day possible. For the French, D-Day was the 1,453rd day of their occupation. Throughout all those terrible days, people along this coast kept faith. Whether gathering intelligence, carving out escape routes for Allied soldiers or destroying enemy supply lines, they, too, kept freedom's flame alive with a terrible price.

Thousands were executed. Thousands more died in concentration camps. Oh, the loved ones of all who died, no matter what their nationality, they all feel a loss that cannot be captured in these statistics. Only one number matters—the husband who can never be replaced, the best friend who never came home, the father who never played with his child again.

One of those fathers who died on D-Day had written a letter home to his wife and their daughter barely a month before the invasion. He said, "I sincerely pray that if you fail to hear from me for a while you will recall the words of the Gospel: 'A little while and you shall not see me, and again a little while, and you shall see me.' But in your thoughts I shall always be, and you in mine." He was right. They must always be in our thoughts. To honor them, we must remember.

The people of this coast understand. Just beyond this beach is the town of St. Mere Eglise. There, brave American paratroopers floated into a tragic ambush on D-Day, and there the survivors rallied to complete their mission. The Mayor's wife, Simone Renaud, wrote the families of the Americans who had fought and died to free her village. And she kept on writing them every week for the rest of her life until she died just six years ago. Her son, Henri-Jean Renaud carries on her vigil now. And he has vowed never to forget, saying, "I will dedicate myself to the memory of their sacrifice for as long as I live."

We must do no less. We must carry on the work of those who did not return and those who did. We must turn the pain of loss into the power of redemption so that 50 or 100 or 1,000 years from now, those who bought our liberty with their lives will never be forgotten.

To those of you who have survived and come back to this hallowed ground, let me say that the rest of us know that the most difficult days of your life brought us 50 years of freedom. Thank you, and God bless you all.

At 5:00 p.m., the CODEL proceeded to Colleville-sur-Mer to attend the U.S. Commemoration Ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery. The cemetery is situated on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach and the English Channel just east of St.-Laurent-sur-Mer and northwest of Bayeux in Colleville-sur-Mer. The program of the ceremony follows:

1944 - 1994

Normandy American Cemetery Ceremony

(6 June 1994)

Pre-Ceremony Activities

Posting of the Colors

Rendering of Honors

Invocation

Laying of the Memorial Wreath

Howitzer Salute to Lost Veterans

Remarks

Benediction

National Anthems

Fly - Over

Post-Ceremony Activities



Wounded soldiers of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions are helped ashore by their comrades. On D-Day casualties at OMAHA Beach numbered over 2,400 men.

The 172.5-acre cemetery contains 10 grave plots. Interred within them are the remains of 9,386 servicemen and women—307 of which are Unknowns, three Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, and four women. Also buried side by side, are father and son, and 33 pairs of brothers. Each grave is marked with a white marble headstone, a Star of David for those of the Jewish faith, a Latin cross for Christians. As described in the cemetery booklet, the “precisely aligned headstones against the immaculately maintained emerald green lawn convey an unforgettable feeling of peace and serenity.”

Before introducing President Clinton, Mr. Joseph T. Dawson recalled the events that took place on the morning of June 6, 1944, as he led his company ashore at Omaha Beach.

Released from active duty in September 1945, Mr. Dawson assumed command of the second battalion 142 Infantry Regiment 36th Division with the rank of Lt. Colonel. His military career ended when he resigned this position in 1947 to assume the responsibilities of Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Corpus Christi and also was elected a member of the City Council of Corpus Christi and aggressively pursued a career in the oil business.

Mr. Dawson is the proud recipient of the DSC, Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart with cluster, Presidential Citations for 16th Inf. Reg. 2nd Battalion and “G” Co. along with all campaign medals for the European Theatre. He and his lovely wife have two married daughters and five grandchildren all of whom reside in Texas.

Mr. Dawson's remarks follow:

REMARKS OF JOSEPH T. DAWSON

In the face of crisis men rise above themselves to accomplish great things. Here, on this hallowed ground is where the battle was joined. What better examples of courage and bravery were ever displayed than by the men of the assault elements of the 16th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Division and the men of the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division who were our comrades here on the Omaha Beach June the sixth, 1944. I cannot tell you what it means to me to stand on this spot where the path we took led us to where we are today. Where we landed at 0700 on the beach below was total chaos. Men lay dead or dying and the equipment and wreckage of battle was choking the shoreline. I recall how I was overwhelmed with a feeling of anger and rage, and I knew we had to get to the enemy before we were destroyed. Suddenly, I saw a path, fraught with obstacles and obviously mined, leading toward the crest of the bluff that dominated this beach. Upon clearing the minefield, we swiftly moved to engage the enemy in trenches here on the crest. By sheer luck or, perhaps, by fate, we found the opening that became the first penetration of the enemy. The paths we cleared became the route of our comrades to follow, and it was the only exit off the beach until later that day.

We're here to recognize and to pay homage to those who shaped the course of history. Only one, who holds the highest office in this land, can express to the world the pride and gratitude of our nation to you, the men of D-Day. And so, on behalf of the soldiers of my company and all other Army warriors who stormed these beaches and bluffs; and, on behalf of our Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force comrades who fought with us and for us; on behalf of all men and women who served their country in World War II, it is my special privilege and great honor to present the President of the United States.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT U.S. NATIONAL CEMETERY ABOVE
OMAHA BEACH

Colleville-sur-mer, France

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Dawson, you did your men proud today. General Shalikashvili, Mr. Cronkite, Chaplain, distinguished leaders of our government, members of Congress, members of the Armed services, our hosts from France, and, most of all, our veterans, their families and their friends:

In these last days of ceremonies, we have heard wonderful words of tribute. Now we come to this hallowed place that speaks, more than anything else, in silence. Here on this quiet plateau, on this small piece of American soil, we honor those who gave their lives for us 50 crowded years ago.

Today, the beaches of Normandy are calm. If you walk these shores on a summer's day, all you might hear is the laughter of children playing on the sand, or the cry of seagulls overhead, or perhaps the ringing of a distant church bell—the simple sounds of freedom barely breaking the silence—peaceful silence, ordinary silence.

But June 6th, 1944 was the least ordinary day of the 20th century. On that chilled dawn, these beaches echoed with the sounds of staccato gunfire, the roar of aircraft, the thunder of bombardment. And through the wind and the waves came the soldiers, out of their landing craft and into the water, away from their youth and toward a savage place many of them would sadly never leave.

They had come to free a continent—the Americans, the British, the Canadians, the Poles, the French Resistance, the Norwegians and others—they had all come to stop one of the greatest forces of evil the world has ever known.

As news of the invasion broke back home in America, people held their breath. In Boston, commuters stood reading the news on the electric sign at South Station. In New York, the Statue of Liberty, its torch blacked out since Pearl Harbor, was lit at sunset for 15 minutes.

And in Newcastle, Pennsylvania, a young mother named Pauline Elliot wrote to her husband, Frank, a corporal in the Army, "D-Day has arrived. The first thought of all of us was a prayer."

Below us are the beaches where Corporal Elliot's battalion and so many other Americans landed—Omaha and Utah, proud names from America's heartland, part of the biggest gamble of the war, the greatest crusade; yes, the "longest day."

During those first hours on bloody Omaha nothing seemed to go right. Landing craft were ripped apart by mines and shells. Tanks sent to protect them had sunk, drowning their crews. Enemy fire raked the invaders as they stepped into chest-high water and waded past the floating bodies of their comrades. And as the stunned survivors of the first wave huddled behind a seawall, it seemed the invasion might fail.

Hitler and his followers had bet on it. They were sure the Allied soldiers were soft, weakened by liberty and leisure, by the mingling of races and religion. They were sure their totalitarian youth had more discipline and zeal.

But then, something happened. Although many of the American troops found themselves without officers on unfamiliar ground, next to soldiers they didn't know, one by one, they got up. They inched forward and together in groups of threes and fives and tens, the sons of democracy improvised and mounted their own attacks. At that exact moment on these beaches, the forces of freedom turned the tide of the 20th century.

These soldiers knew that staying put meant certain death. But they were also driven by the voice of free will and responsibility, nurtured in Sunday schools, town halls and sandlot ball games. The voice that told them to stand up and move forward, saying, "You can do it. And if you don't, no one else will." And as Captain Joe Dawson led his company up this bluff, and as others followed his lead, they secured a foothold for freedom.

Today, many of them are here among us. Oh, they may walk with a little less spring in their step and their ranks are growing thinner, but let us never forget—when they were young, these men saved the world.

And so let us now ask them, all the veterans of the Normandy campaign, to stand if they can and be recognized.

The freedom they fought for was no abstract concept, it was the stuff of their daily lives. Listen to what Frank Elliot had written to his wife from the embarkation point in England: "I miss hamburgers a la Coney Island; American beer a la Duquesne; American shows a la Penn Theater; and American girls a la you."

Pauline Elliot wrote back on June 6th, as she and their one-year old daughter listened on the radio, "Little Deronda is the only one not affected by D-Day news. I

hope and pray she will never remember any of this, but only the happiness of the hours that will follow her Daddy's homecoming step on the porch."

Well, millions of our GIs did return home from that war to build up our nations and enjoy life's sweet pleasures. But on this field, there are 9,386 who did not—33 pairs of brothers; a father and his son; 11 men from tiny Bedford, Virginia; and Corporal Frank Elliot, killed near these bluffs by a German shell on D-Day.

They were the fathers we never knew, the uncles we never met, the friends who never returned, the heroes we can never repay. They gave us our world. And those simple sounds of freedom we hear today are their voices speaking to us across the years.

At this place, let us honor all the Americans who lost their lives in World War II. Let us remember, as well, that over 40 million human beings from every side perished—soldiers on the field of battle, Jews in the ghettos and death camps, civilians ravaged by shell fire and famine. May God give rest to all their souls.

Fifty years later, what a different world we live in. Germany, Japan and Italy, liberated by our victory, now stand among our closest allies and the staunchest defenders of freedom. Russia, decimated during the war and frozen afterward in communism and cold War, has been reborn in democracy. And as freedom rings from Prague to Kiev, the liberation of this continent is nearly complete.

Now the question falls to our generation: How will we build upon the sacrifice of D-Day's heroes? Like the soldiers of Omaha Beach, we cannot stand still. We cannot stay safe by doing so. Avoiding today's problems would be our own generation's appeasements. For just as freedom has a price, it also has a purpose, and it's name is progress. Today our mission is to expand freedom's reach forward; to test the full potential of each of our own citizens; to strengthen our families, our faith and our communities; to fight indifference and intolerance; to keep our nation strong; and to light the lives of those still dwelling in the darkness of undemocratic rule. Our parents did that and more; we must do nothing less. They struggled in war so that we might strive in peace.

We know that progress is not inevitable. But neither was victory upon these beaches. Now, as then, the inner voice tells us to stand up and move forward. Now, as then, free people must choose.

Fifty years ago, the first Allied soldiers to land here in Normandy came not from the sea, but from the sky. They were called Pathfinders, the first paratroopers to make the jump. Deep in the darkness they descended upon these fields to light beacons for the airborne assaults that would soon follow. Now, near the dawn of a new century, the job of lighting those beacons falls to our hands.

To you who brought us here, I promise, we will be the new pathfinders, for we are the children of your sacrifice.

Thank you and God bless you all.

President Clinton was warmly received by all World War II veterans who came to hear him pay tribute to those who died during the Normandy invasion. The President and Mrs. Clinton spent two hours with veterans and their families and several hundred active duty military personnel who participated in the event. The President captured the moment with his remarks at the close of the day.

International *Herald Tribune* reporter Barry James who was present for the ceremony, best described the President's deep feelings for our nation's veterans as follows: "Looking out across the cemetery where 9,386 Americans lie under trim rows of white crosses and Stars of David, the President spoke movingly of the fathers we never knew, the uncles we never met, the friends who never returned, the heroes we can never repay."

Members of the delegation are grateful to Speaker Foley for authorizing the trip to honor America's heroes of the Normandy invasion. Although the price was terribly high, the success of the invasion marked the beginning of the war to free Europe. The American people, and men and women throughout the free world, will never forget the tens of thousands of young Americans and Allied forces who died to protect liberty.