

(NOONAN)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

POINTE DU HOC

WE ARE HERE TO MARK THAT DAY IN HISTORY WHEN THE ALLIED ARMIES JOINED IN BATTLE TO RECLAIM THIS CONTINENT TO LIBERTY. FOR 4 LONG YEARS, MUCH OF EUROPE HAD BEEN UNDER A TERRIBLE SHADOW. FREE NATIONS HAD FALLEN, JEWS CRIED OUT IN THE CAMPS, MILLIONS CRIED OUT FOR LIBERATION. EUROPE WAS ENSLAVED, AND THE WORLD PRAYED FOR ITS RESCUE. HERE, IN NORMANDY, THE RESCUE BEGAN. HERE THE ALLIES STOOD, AND FOUGHT AGAINST TYRANNY IN A GIANT UNDERTAKING UNPARALLELED IN HUMAN HISTORY.

WE STAND ON A LONELY, WINDSWEPT POINT ON THE NORTHERN SHORE OF FRANCE. THE AIR IS SOFT, BUT, 40 YEARS AGO AT THIS MOMENT, THE AIR WAS DENSE WITH SMOKE AND THE CRIES OF MEN; THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH THE CRACK OF RIFLE FIRE AND THE ROAR OF CANNON.

AT DAWN ON THE MORNING OF THE 6TH OF JUNE, 1944, 225 AMERICAN RANGERS JUMPED OFF THE BRITISH LANDING CRAFT AND RAN TO THE BOTTOM OF THESE CLIFFS. THEIR MISSION WAS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND DARING OF THE INVASION: TO CLIMB THESE SHEER AND DESOLATE CLIFFS AND TAKE OUT THE ENEMY GUNS. THE ALLIES HAD BEEN TOLD THAT SOME OF THE MIGHTIEST OF THOSE GUNS WERE HERE, AND THEY WOULD BE TRAINED ON THE BEACHES TO STOP THE ALLIED ADVANCE.

THE RANGERS LOOKED UP AND SAW THE ENEMY SOLDIERS AT THE EDGE OF THE CLIFFS SHOOTING DOWN AT THEM WITH MACHINE GUNS AND THROWING GRENADES. AND THE AMERICAN RANGERS BEGAN TO CLIMB. THEY SHOT ROPE LADDERS OVER THE FACE OF THESE CLIFFS AND BEGAN TO PULL THEMSELVES UP. WHEN ONE RANGER FELL, ANOTHER WOULD TAKE HIS PLACE; WHEN ONE ROPE WAS CUT, A RANGER WOULD GRAB ANOTHER AND BEGIN HIS CLIMB AGAIN.

THEY CLIMBED, SHOT BACK, AND HELD THEIR FOOTING; SOON, ONE BY ONE, THE RANGERS PULLED THEMSELVES OVER THE TOP -- AND IN SEIZING THE FIRM LAND AT THE TOP OF THESE CLIFFS THEY BEGAN TO SEIZE BACK THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

225 CAME HERE. AFTER TWO DAYS OF FIGHTING, ONLY 90 COULD STILL BEAR ARMS.

BEHIND ME IS A MEMORIAL THAT SYMBOLIZES THE RANGER DAGGERS THAT WERE THRUST INTO THE TOP OF THESE CLIFFS. AND BEFORE ME ARE THE MEN WHO PUT THEM THERE.

THESE ARE THE BOYS OF POINTE DU HOC. THESE ARE THE MEN WHO TOOK THE CLIFFS. THESE ARE THE CHAMPIONS WHO HELPED FREE A CONTINENT; THESE ARE THE HEROES WHO HELPED END A WAR.

GENTLEMEN, I LOOK AT YOU AND I THINK OF THE WORDS OF STEPHEN SPENDER'S POEM, YOU ARE MEN WHO IN YOUR "LIVES FOUGHT FOR LIFE...AND LEFT THE VIVID AIR SIGNED WITH YOUR HONOR."

I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU MAY BE THINKING RIGHT NOW: "WE WERE JUST PART OF A BIGGER EFFORT; EVERYONE WAS BRAVE THAT DAY."

EVERYONE WAS. DO YOU REMEMBER THE STORY OF BILL MILLIN OF THE 51ST HIGHLANDERS? FORTY YEARS AGO TODAY, BRITISH TROOPS WERE PINNED DOWN NEAR A BRIDGE, WAITING DESPERATELY FOR HELP. SUDDENLY, THEY HEARD THE SOUND OF BAGPIPES, AND SOME THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM. IT WASN'T. THEY LOOKED UP AND SAW BILL MILLIN WITH HIS BAGPIPES, LEADING THE REINFORCEMENTS, AND IGNORING THE SMACK OF THE BULLETS INTO THE GROUND AROUND HIM.

LORD LOVAT WAS WITH HIM -- LORD LOVAT OF SCOTLAND, WHO CALMLY ANNOUNCED WHEN HE GOT TO THE BRIDGE: SORRY I'M A FEW MINUTES LATE, AS IF HE'D BEEN DELAYED BY A TRAFFIC JAM -- WHEN IN TRUTH HE'D JUST COME FROM THE BLOODY FIGHTING ON SWORD BEACH, WHICH HE AND HIS MEN HAD JUST TAKEN,

THERE WAS THE IMPOSSIBLE VALOR OF THE POLES, WHO THREW THEMSELVES BETWEEN THE ENEMY AND THE REST OF EUROPE AS THE INVASION TOOK HOLD. AND THE UNSURPASSED COURAGE OF THE CANADIANS, WHO HAD ALREADY SEEN THE HORRORS OF WAR ON THIS COAST. THEY KNEW WHAT AWAITED THEM HERE, BUT THEY WOULD NOT BE DETERRED; ONCE THEY HIT JUNO BEACH, THEY NEVER LOOKED BACK.

ALL OF THESE MEN WERE PART OF A ROLLCALL OF HONOR, WITH NAMES THAT SPOKE OF A PRIDE AS BRIGHT AS THE COLORS THEY BORE: THE ROYAL WINNIPEG RIFLES, POLAND'S 24TH LANCERS, THE ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS, THE SCREAMING EAGLES, THE YEOMEN OF ENGLAND'S ARMoured DIVISIONS, THE FORCES OF FREE FRANCE, THE COAST GUARD'S "MATCHBOX FLEET" ...AND YOU, THE AMERICAN RANGERS.

FORTY SUMMERS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE BATTLE YOU FOUGHT HERE. YOU WERE YOUNG THE DAY YOU TOOK THESE CLIFFS -- SOME OF YOU WERE HARDLY MORE THAN BOYS, WITH THE DEEPEST JOYS OF LIFE BEFORE YOU. YET YOU RISKED EVERYTHING HERE. WHY? WHY DID YOU DO IT? WHAT IMPELLED YOU TO PUT ASIDE THE INSTINCT FOR SELF-PRESERVATION AND RISK YOUR LIVES TO TAKE THESE CLIFFS? WHAT INSPIRED ALL THE MEN OF THE ARMIES THAT MET HERE?

WE LOOK AT YOU, AND SOMEHOW WE KNOW THE ANSWER.

IT WAS FAITH AND BELIEF; IT WAS LOYALTY AND LOVE.

THE MEN OF NORMANDY HAD FAITH THAT WHAT THEY WERE DOING WAS RIGHT, FAITH THAT THEY FOUGHT FOR ALL HUMANITY, FAITH THAT A JUST GOD WOULD GRANT THEM MERCY ON THIS BEACHHEAD -- OR ON THE NEXT. IT WAS THE DEEP KNOWLEDGE -- AND PRAY GOD WE HAVE NOT LOST IT -- THAT THERE IS A PROFOUND, MORAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE USE OF FORCE FOR LIBERATION AND THE USE OF FORCE FOR CONQUEST. THEY WERE HERE TO LIBERATE, NOT TO CONQUER, AND SO THEY DID NOT DOUBT THEIR CAUSE. AND THEY WERE RIGHT NOT TO DOUBT.

THEY KNEW SOME THINGS ARE WORTH DYING FOR: ONE'S COUNTRY IS WORTH DYING FOR; AND DEMOCRACY IS WORTH DYING FOR, BECAUSE IT IS THE MOST DEEPLY HONORABLE FORM OF GOVERNMENT EVER DEvised BY MAN. THEY LOVED LIBERTY; THEY WERE WILLING TO FIGHT TYRANNY; THEY KNEW THE PEOPLE OF THEIR COUNTRIES WERE BEHIND THEM.

THE AMERICANS WHO FOUGHT HERE THAT MORNING KNEW WORD OF THE INVASION WAS SPREADING THROUGH THE DARKNESS BACK HOME. THEY FELT IN THEIR HEARTS, THOUGH THEY COULD NOT KNOW IN FACT, THAT IN GEORGIA THEY WERE FILLING THE CHURCHES AT 4 A.M., IN KANSAS THEY WERE KNEELING ON THEIR PORCHES AND PRAYING, AND IN PHILADELPHIA THEY WERE RINGING THE LIBERTY BELL.

SOMETHING ELSE HELPED THE MEN OF D-DAY: THEIR ROCKHARD BELIEF THAT PROVIDENCE WOULD HAVE A GREAT HAND IN THE EVENTS THAT WOULD UNFOLD HERE; THAT GOD WAS AN ALLY IN THIS GREAT CAUSE. AND, SO, THE NIGHT BEFORE THE INVASION, WHEN COLONEL WOLVERTON ASKED HIS PARACHUTE TROOPS TO KNEEL WITH HIM IN PRAYER HE TOLD THEM: DO NOT BOW YOUR HEADS BUT LOOK UP SO YOU CAN SEE GOD AND ASK HIS BLESSING IN WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO DO, ALSO THAT NIGHT, GENERAL MATTHEW RIDGWAY LAY ON HIS COT, LISTENING IN THE DARKNESS FOR THE PROMISE GOD MADE TO JOSHUA: "I WILL NOT FAIL THEE NOR FORSAKE THEE."

THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT IMPELLED THEM; THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT SHAPED THE UNITY OF THE ALLIES.

WHEN THE WAR WAS OVER, THERE WERE LIVES TO BE REBUILT AND GOVERNMENTS TO BE RETURNED TO THE PEOPLE. THERE WERE NATIONS TO BE REBORN.

ABOVE ALL, THERE WAS A NEW PEACE TO BE ASSURED. THESE WERE HUGE AND DAUNTING TASKS. BUT THE ALLIES SUMMONED STRENGTH FROM THE FAITH, BELIEF, LOYALTY AND LOVE OF THOSE WHO FELL HERE. THEY REBUILT A NEW EUROPE TOGETHER.

THERE WAS FIRST A GREAT RECONCILIATION AMONG THOSE WHO HAD BEEN ENEMIES, ALL OF WHOM HAD SUFFERED SO GREATLY. THE UNITED STATES DID ITS PART, CREATING THE MARSHALL PLAN TO HELP REBUILD OUR ALLIES AND OUR FORMER ENEMIES. THE MARSHALL PLAN LED TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE -- A GREAT ALLIANCE THAT SERVES TO THIS DAY AS OUR SHIELD FOR FREEDOM, FOR PROSPERITY, AND FOR PEACE.

IN SPITE OF OUR GREAT EFFORTS AND SUCCESSES, NOT ALL THAT FOLLOWED THE END OF THE WAR WAS HAPPY, OR PLANNED. SOME LIBERATED COUNTRIES WERE LOST.

THE GREAT SADNESS OF THIS LOSS ECHOES DOWN TO OUR OWN TIME IN THE STREETS OF WARSAW, PRAGUE, AND EAST BERLIN. THE SOVIET TROOPS THAT CAME TO THE CENTER OF THIS CONTINENT DID NOT LEAVE WHEN PEACE CAME. THEY ARE STILL THERE, UNINVITED, UNWANTED, UNYIELDING, ALMOST 40 YEARS AFTER THE WAR.

BECAUSE OF THIS, ALLIED FORCES STILL STAND ON THIS CONTINENT. TODAY, AS 40 YEARS AGO, OUR ARMIES ARE HERE FOR ONLY ONE PURPOSE -- TO PROTECT AND DEFEND DEMOCRACY. THE ONLY TERRITORIES WE HOLD ARE MEMORIALS LIKE THIS ONE AND THE GRAVEYARDS WHERE OUR HEROES REST.

WE IN AMERICA HAVE LEARNED BITTER LESSONS FROM TWO WORLD WARS: IT IS BETTER TO BE HERE, READY TO PROTECT THE PEACE, THAN TO TAKE BLIND SHELTER ACROSS THE SEA, RUSHING TO RESPOND ONLY AFTER FREEDOM IS LOST.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT ISOLATIONISM NEVER WAS AND NEVER WILL BE AN ACCEPTABLE RESPONSE TO TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENTS WITH EXPANSIONIST INTENT.

BUT WE TRY ALWAYS TO BE PREPARED FOR PEACE; PREPARED TO DETER AGGRESSION; PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE THE REDUCTION OF ARMS; AND, YES, PREPARED TO REACH OUT AGAIN IN THE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION.

IN TRUTH, THERE IS NO RECONCILIATION WE WOULD WELCOME MORE THAN A RECONCILIATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION, SO, TOGETHER, WE CAN LESSEN THE RISKS OF WAR, NOW AND FOREVER.

IT IS FITTING TO REMEMBER HERE THE GREAT LOSSES ALSO SUFFERED BY THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE DURING WORLD WAR II: 20 MILLION PERISHED, A TERRIBLE PRICE THAT TESTIFIES TO ALL THE WORLD THE NECESSITY OF AVOIDING WAR.

I TELL YOU FROM MY HEART THAT WE IN THE UNITED STATES DO NOT WANT WAR. WE WANT TO WIPE FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH THE TERRIBLE WEAPONS MAN NOW HAS IN HIS HANDS. I TELL YOU WE ARE READY TO SEIZE THAT BEACHHEAD -- BUT THERE MUST BE SOME SIGN FROM THE SOVIET UNION THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO MOVE FORWARD, THAT THEY SHARE OUR DESIRE AND LOVE FOR PEACE, THAT THEY WILL GIVE UP THE WAYS OF CONQUEST. THERE MUST BE A CHANGING THERE THAT WILL ALLOW US TO TURN OUR HOPE INTO ACTION.

WE WILL PRAY FOREVER THAT SOME DAY THAT CHANGING WILL COME. BUT FOR NOW, PARTICULARLY TODAY, IT IS GOOD AND FITTING TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER, TO OUR FREEDOM, AND TO THE ALLIANCE THAT PROTECTS IT.

WE ARE BOUND TODAY BY WHAT BOUND US 40 YEARS AGO, THE SAME LOYALTIES, TRADITIONS, AND BELIEFS.

AND WE ARE BOUND BY REALITY: THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA'S ALLIES IS VITAL TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE AMERICAN SECURITY GUARANTEE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CONTINUED FREEDOM OF EUROPE'S DEMOCRACIES. WE WERE WITH YOU THEN; WE ARE WITH YOU NOW. YOUR HOPES ARE OUR HOPES, AND YOUR DESTINY IS OUR DESTINY.

HERE, IN THIS PLACE WHERE THE WEST HELD TOGETHER, LET US MAKE A VOW TO OUR DEAD. LET US SHOW THEM BY OUR ACTIONS THAT WE UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY DIED FOR; LET OUR ACTIONS SAY TO THEM THE WORDS FOR WHICH MATTHEW RIDGWAY LISTENED: "I WILL NOT FAIL THEE NOR FORSAKE THEE."

STRENGTHENED BY THEIR COURAGE, HEARTENED BY THEIR VALOR, AND BORNE BY THEIR MEMORY, LET US CONTINUE TO STAND FOR THE IDEALS FOR WHICH THEY LIVED AND DIED.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

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Document Two

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Normandy, France)

For Immediate Release

June 6, 1984

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO ASSEMBLED VETERANS AT POINTE DU HOC

Cricqueville, France

1:20 P.M. (L)

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

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

The Rangers looked up and saw the enemy soldiers, the edge of the cliffs shooting down at them with machine guns and throwing grenades. And the American Rangers began to climb. They shot rope ladders over the face of these cliffs and began to pull themselves up. When one Ranger fell, another would take his place. When one rope was cut, a Ranger would grab another and begin his climb again. They climbed, shot back and held their footing. Soon, one by one, the Rangers pulled themselves over the top and in seizing the firm land at the top of these cliffs, they began to seize back the Continent of Europe.

Two hundred and twenty-five came here. After two days of fighting, only 90 could still bear arms.

Behind me is a memorial that symbolizes the Ranger daggers that were thrust into the top of these cliffs. And before me are the men who put them there.

These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. (Applause.) These are the men who took the cliffs. These are the champions who helped free a continent. These are the heroes who helped end a war.

MORE

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

I think I know what you may be thinking right now: Thinking "we were just part of a bigger effort; everyone was brave that day." Well, everyone was. Do you remember the story of Bill Millin of the 51st Highlanders? Forty years ago today, British troops were pinned down near a bridge, waiting desperately for help. Suddenly, they heard the sound of bagpipes, and some thought they were dreaming. Well, they weren't. They looked up and saw Bill Millin with his bagpipes, leading the reinforcements and ignoring the smack of the bullets into the ground around him.

Lord Lovat was with him -- Lord Lovat of Scotland who calmly announced when he got to the bridge: "Sorry I'm a few minutes late," as if he'd been delayed by a traffic jam, when in truth he'd just come from the bloody fighting on Sword Beach which he and men had just taken.

There was the impossible valor of the Poles who threw themselves between the enemy and the rest of Europe as the invasion took hold. And the unsurpassed courage of the Canadians who had already seen the horrors of war on this coast. They knew what awaited them there, but they would not be deterred. And once they hit Juno Beach, they never looked back.

All of these men were part of a rollcall of honor with names that spoke of a pride as bright as the colors they bore: The Royal Winnipeg Rifles, Poland's 24th Lancers, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the Screaming Eagles, the Yeomen of England's armored divisions, the forces of Free France, the Coast Guard's "Matchbox Fleet" and you, the American Rangers.

Forty summers have passed since the battle that you fought here. You were young the day you took these cliffs; some of you were hardly more than boys, with the deepest joys of life before you. Yet, you risked everything here. Why? Why did you do it? What impelled you to put aside the instinct for self-preservation and risk your lives to take these cliffs? What inspired all the men of the armies that met here?

MORE

We look at you, and somehow we know the answer. It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love.

The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead -- or on the next. It was the deep knowledge, and pray God we have not lost it, that there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. You were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so you and those others did not doubt your cause. And you were right not to doubt.

You all knew that some things are worth dying for: one's country is worth dying for; and democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man. All of you loved liberty; all of you were willing to fight tyranny; and you knew the people of your countries were behind you.

The Americans who fought here that morning knew word of the Invasion was spreading through the darkness back home. They fought -- or felt in their hearts, though they couldn't know in fact, that in Georgia they were filling the churches at 4:00 a.m., in Kansas they were kneeling on their porches and praying, and in Philadelphia they were ringing the Liberty Bell.

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

These are the things that impelled them; these are the things that shaped the unity of the Allies.

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

There was first a great reconciliation among those who had been enemies, all of whom had suffered so greatly. The United States did its part, creating the Marshall Plan to help rebuild our allies and our former enemies. The Marshall Plan led to the Atlantic Alliance -- a great alliance that serves to this day as our shield for freedom, for prosperity, and for peace.

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

Because of this, allied forces still stand on this continent. Today, as 40 years ago, our armies are here for only one purpose -- to protect and defend democracy. The only territories we hold are memorials like this one and graveyards where our heroes rest.

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

But we try always to be prepared for peace; prepared to deter aggression; prepared to negotiate the reduction of arms; and, yes, prepared to reach out again the spirit of reconciliation. In truth, there is no reconciliation we would welcome more than a reconciliation with the Soviet Union, so, together, we can lessen the risks of war, now and forever.

It's fitting to remember here the great losses also suffered by the Russian people during World War II: 20 million perished, a terrible price that testifies to all the world the necessity of ending war. I tell you from my heart that we, in the United States do not want war. We want to wipe from the face of the earth the terrible weapons that man now has in his hands. And I tell you, we are ready to seize that beachhead -- we look for some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, and that they will give up the ways of conquest. There must be a changing there that will allow us to turn our hope into action.

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

We are bound today by what bound us 40 years ago, the same loyalties, traditions, and beliefs. We're bound by reality. The strength of America's allies is vital to the United States, and the American security guarantee is essential to the continued freedom of Europe's democracies. We were with you then; we are with you now. Your hopes are our hopes, and your destiny is our destiny.

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

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

Thank you very much and God bless you all. (Applause.)

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/21/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 p.m. tomorrow 5/21

SUBJECT: ADDRESS: POINTE DU HOC
 (5/21 - 3:30 draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McFARLANE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McMANUS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERSTANDIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHITTLESEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HERRINGTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ELLIOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			WIRTHLIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			HENKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

RESPONSE:

To: Ben Elliott
 Please see p. 2. Suggest we double-check facts w/ Army. As I recall, the Pte du Hoc guns were not in place at top of the cliffs -- they had instead been moved. They never fired on the invasion forces -- only small arms fire came from the cliffs.
 Jim Cicconi

Richard G. Darman
 Assistant to the President
 Ext. 2702

Document Four

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~Two hundred came here. After 2 days of fighting words are hollow next to such deeds, and the valor of these only 90 could still bear arms. men is impossible to describe. But we know that 200 came here, and by the end of two days of fighting only 90 could still bear arms.~~

⁶²
~~I stand here today before the survivors of that battle. We have here today some of the survivors of the battle of Pointe du Hoc, some of the Rangers who took these cliffs. I think who took the cliffs. ~~Stand their faces, remember their~~ ^{free} These are the ~~boys~~ who helped ~~free~~ a continent: these are the heroes~~

~~I want you to know what they did with their lives, for I know what they are thinking as they hear themselves praised. These are men who never stopped giving. They are thinking: "Oh, I was just part of what happened, just a part of a bigger thing... and everyone was brave that day."~~

Gentlemen,

I look at you, and I think I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, Everyone was. The heroism of the ^{allies} men of D-Day was 'But we were just part

boundless, but there was another quality to it, not only of size of a bigger effort... but of spirit. ~~There was a style that reflected the special honor of each country.~~ and everyone was brave that day.

There was

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

^{There} ~~Their first accomplishment~~ was a great reconciliation, not only of those who fought on opposite sides in the war . . . but of those nations which had been torn for centuries by rivalries of territory and religion and power. ~~Never again could~~ Finally, with the end of World War II, the rivalries which had bedeviled Western Europe for centuries were interred.

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

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

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

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

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

~~But we try always to prepare for peace. That is why we live in difficult times. It would be a wonderful thing if today, 40 years after the Normandy Invasion, we could say that we have tried to negotiate the control of arms. Tyranny was forever defeated on these shores. But history did not grant us the right to make that claim. There are those who say that the West is the great destabilizing force in the world today, that America is the reason we have not achieved peace, that America is the warmonger and America is the problem.~~

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

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

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

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

We are bound still by what bound us 40 years ago, bound by the same loyalties and traditions and beliefs. We are bound by

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

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

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

Thank you all very much.

The Longest Day June 6, 1944

Across the bay, on the transport *New Amsterdam* anchored near Weymouth, Second Lieutenant George Kerchner of the 2nd Ranger Battalion was occupied with a routine chore. He was censoring his platoon's mail. It was particularly heavy tonight; everybody seemed to have written long letters home. The 2nd and 5th Rangers had been given one of the toughest D-Day assignments. They were to scale the almost sheer 100-foot cliffs at a place called Pointe du Hoc and silence a battery of six long-range guns—guns so powerful that they could zero in on Omaha Beach or the transport area of Utah Beach. The Rangers would have just thirty minutes to do the job.

Casualties were expected to be heavy—some thought as high as sixty per cent—unless the air and naval bombardment could knock out the guns before the Rangers got there. Either way, nobody expected the attack to be a breeze. Nobody, that is, except Staff Sergeant Larry Johnson, one of Kerchner's section leaders.

The lieutenant was dumfounded when he read Johnson's letter. Although none of the mail would be sent out until after D Day—whenever that would be—this letter couldn't even be delivered through ordinary channels. Kerchner sent for Johnson and, when the sergeant arrived, gave him back the letter. "Larry," said Kerchner drily, "you better post this yourself—after you get to France." Johnson had written a girl asking for a date early in June. She lived in Paris.

It struck the lieutenant as the sergeant left the cabin that as long as there were optimists like Johnson nothing was impossible.

Almost every man in the invasion forces wrote a letter to someone during the long hours of waiting. They had been penned up for a long time, and the letters seemed to give them emotional release. Many of them recorded their thoughts in a way that men seldom do.

Captain John F. Dulligan of the 1st Infantry Division, slated to land on Omaha Beach, wrote his wife: "I love these men. They sleep all over the ship, on the decks, in, on top, and underneath

The Wait

the vehicles. They smoke, play cards, wrestle around and indulge in general horseplay. They gather around in groups and talk mostly about girls, home and experiences (with and without girls) . . . They are good soldiers, the best in the world . . . Before the invasion of North Africa, I was nervous and a little scared. During the Sicilian invasion I was so busy that the fear passed while I was working. . . . This time we will hit a beach in France and from there on only God knows the answer. I want you to know that I love you with all my heart. . . . I pray that God will see fit to spare me to you and Ann and Pat."

The men on heavy naval vessels or large transports, on airfields or in embarkation areas, were the lucky ones. They were restricted and overcrowded, but they were dry, warm and well. It was a different story for the troops on the flat-bottomed landing ships heaving at anchor outside nearly every harbor. Some men had been on these vessels for more than a week. The ships were overcrowded and foul, the men unbelievably miserable. For them the battle began long before they ever left England. It was a battle against continuous nausea and seasickness. Most of the men still remember that the ships smelled of just three things: diesel oil, backed-up toilets and vomit.

Conditions varied from ship to ship. On LCT 777 Signalman Third Class George Hackett, Jr., was amazed to see waves so high that they smashed over one end of the wallowing craft and rolled out the other. LCT 6, a British landing craft, was so overloaded that Lieutenant Colonel Clarence Hupfer of the U.S. 4th Division thought it would sink. Water lapped at the gunwales and at times washed over into the craft. The galley was flooded and the troops were forced to eat cold food—those who could eat at all.

LST 97, Sergeant Keith Bryan of the 5th Engineer Special Brigade remembers, was so overcrowded that men were stepping over one another, and it rolled so much that those lucky enough to have bunks had difficulty staying in them. And to Sergeant

were, from east and west, at St Côme-du-Mont, Chef-du-Pont and Pont l'Abbé. Thereafter the line of objectives, from Pont l'Abbé back to Exit 4, ran through the open countryside and would have to be defended, if and when captured, by grit and hope.

The danger to this open flank would come, it was believed, from the two German divisions which it was known had long been stationed in the Cotentin, the 709th on the east coast and the 243rd on the west, and the recently arrived 91st, which had unfortunately been positioned exactly astride the airborne area. Moreover, while the 709th and 243rd were static formations – what the Germans called *bodenständige*, 'ground holding', a euphemistic admission of their total lack of mechanical transport and the low physical fitness of their soldiers – the 91st was composed of young men who had actually been trained in air movement. Still, between them they fielded no more than twenty-four battalions against the eighteen which the Americans could parachute. Moreover, several of the German battalions were not German at all in composition, but manned by more-or-less willing volunteers from the army of prisoners whom the Germans had taken in the east during 1941–2. They were indeed known as East (*Ost*) Battalions, for to have called them Russian would have been inaccurate. They represented for the most part the peripheral and unassimilated peoples of the Russian empire. Cossacks, Georgians, Turkomen, Armenians, Volga Tartars, and Azerbaijanis, who had swapped a tenuous sense of citizenship for the guarantee of regular meals, and might be expected to waver in their new loyalty if pressed to fight for their suppers. That prospect rather bettered the odds, which the Americans calculated to yield a more or less even fight on the first day, when most of the defenders would be pinned in their fixed positions. At worst, it was thought, the Germans would be able to find five battalions to mount a counter-attack against the parachutists, and to concentrate no armour against them until the third day. The forecast was slightly optimistic. There was also in the area a scratch panzer battalion, No. 100, equipped with old French tanks and makeshift assault guns, and the 6th Parachute Regiment, counting three battalions of highly trained soldiers, whose average age was 17½ (it was 36 in the 709th Division). But even this addition of a force so closely similar in quality to that of the American need not mean that the operation was too risky to be attempted (as Air Marshal Leigh-Mallory had argued). It did mean that the Americans would have to put forth every shred of that Red

Indian bravery which, with a last-minute sprouting of Apache haircuts and smearing of red and white warpaint, many of the young bloods in the battalions were nerving themselves to emulate if they were to come through.

The approaching moment of departure evoked other rituals, perhaps made all the more necessary by the disturbing effects on frayed nerves of the invasion's postponement from June 5th to June 6th. A rash of fights broke out, as men who had steeled themselves to leave lost their tempers over minor irritations in the resulting decrescendo. The divisional staffs hastily recalled the regimental bands which had filled the encampments with music during the recent hours, replayed over the public address systems the hit records of the moment and found new films to show. When word of the renewed order of departure came, an officer of the 377th Parachute Artillery, the gunner regiment of the Screaming Eagles, recalls that he found the men to whom he was to pass it watching a Ted Lewis movie, *Is Everybody Happy?* and reflected, as he climbed on to the stage to interrupt it, that 'this was just the way it would happen in Hollywood'. There was an element of Hollywood in the round of hand-pressings and exchange of home addresses which followed, avowals of comradeship to death and promises to visit bereaved relations if a friend should not return. There was Hollywood too in the parting speech of Colonel Wolverton, who was to be killed the following day, to his battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry: 'Although I am not a religious man, I would like all of you to kneel with me in prayer – and do not look down with a bowed head, but look up, so that you can see God and ask His blessing and help in what we are about to do.'¹² There was even more Hollywood in the ferocious final briefing by Colonel Howard 'Skeets' Johnson of the 501st, which he concluded by whipping out his jump knife, brandishing it above his head and screaming: 'I swear to you that before tomorrow night this knife will be buried in the back of the blackest German in Normandy.'¹³ His men screamed back in exultation. But many more sought consolation in quiet, personal religion, making their confessions if they were Catholic, as were so many from the big industrial cities of the north and east where the divisions recruited, or simply retreating into private prayer. One of those who prayed most fervently was the commander of the All American, Matthew B. Ridgway, whose calm and handsome features and soldierly bearing concealed a nature of the

"My dear Plus," came Ocker's airy voice over the wire, "are you still alive?"

Pluskat ignored the question. "What's happening about the ammunition?" he asked bluntly.

"It's on the way," said Ocker.

The colonel's calmness maddened Pluskat. "When?" he shouted. "When will it arrive? You people don't seem to realize what it's like up here."

Ten minutes later Pluskat was summoned to the phone. "I've got bad news," Ocker told him. "I've just learned that the ammunition convoy has been wiped out. It will be nightfall before anything gets up to you."

Pluskat wasn't surprised; he knew from bitter personal experience that nothing could move along the roads. He also knew that at the rate his guns were firing, the batteries would be out of ammunition by nightfall. The question was, which would reach his guns first—the ammunition or the Americans? Pluskat gave orders for his troops to prepare for close combat and then he wandered aimlessly through the château. He felt suddenly useless and alone. He wished he knew where his dog Harras was.

★ 8 ★

BY NOW the British soldiers who had fought D Day's first battle had been holding on to their prize, the bridges over the Orne and the Caen Canal, for more than thirteen hours. Although Major Howard's glider-borne troops had been reinforced at

dawn by other 6th Airborne paratroopers, their numbers had been steadily dwindling under fierce mortar and small-arms fire. Howard's men had stopped several small, probing counterattacks. Now the tired, anxious troopers in the captured German positions on either side of the bridge eagerly awaited the link-up from the sea.

In his foxhole near the approaches to the Caen Canal bridge, Private Bill Gray looked at his watch again. Lord Lovat's commandos were almost an hour and a half overdue. He wondered what had happened back up on the beaches. Gray didn't think the fighting could be much worse there than it was at the bridges. He was almost afraid to lift his head; it seemed to him the snipers were becoming more accurate by the minute.

It was during a lull in the firing that Gray's friend, Private John Wilkes, lying beside him, suddenly said, "You know, I think I hear bagpipes." Gray looked at him scornfully. "You're daft," he said. A few seconds later, Wilkes turned to his friend again. "I do hear bagpipes," he insisted. Now Gray could hear them too.

Down the road came Lord Lovat's commandos, cocky in their green berets. Bill Millin marched at the head of the column, his pipes blaring out "Blue Bonnets over the Border." On both sides the firing suddenly ceased, as soldiers gazed at the spectacle. But the shock didn't last long. As the commandos headed across the bridges the Germans began firing again. Bill Millin remembers that he was "just trusting to luck that I did not get hit, as I could not hear very much for the drone of the pipes." Halfway across, Millin turned around to look at Lord Lovat. "He was striding along as if he was out for a walk round his estate," Millin recalls, "and he gave me the signal to carry on."

Disregarding the heavy German fire, the paratroopers rushed out to greet the commandos. Lovat apologized "for being a few minutes late." To the weary 6th Airborne troopers, it was a stirring moment. Although it would be hours before the main body

of British troops reached the farthestmost points of the defense line held by the paratroopers, the first reinforcements had arrived. As the red and green berets intermingled, there was a sudden, perceptible lightening of the spirits. Nineteen-year-old Bill Gray felt "years younger."

★ 9 ★

Now, on this fateful day for Hitler's Third Reich, as Rommel raced frantically for Normandy, as his commanders on the invasion front tried desperately to halt the storming Allied assault, everything depended on the panzers: the 21st Panzer Division just behind the British beaches, and the 12th S.S. and the *Panzer Lehr* still held back by Hitler.

Field Marshal Rommel watched the white ribbon of road stretching out ahead and urged his driver on. "*Tempo! Tempo! Tempo!*" he said. The car roared as Daniel put his foot down. They had left Freudenstadt just two hours before and Rommel had uttered hardly a word. His aide, Captain Lang, sitting in back, had never seen the Field Marshal so depressed. Lang wanted to talk about the landings, but Rommel showed no inclination for conversation. Suddenly Rommel turned around and looked at Lang. "I was right all along," he said, "all along." Then he stared at the road again.

The 21st Panzer Division couldn't get through Caen. Colonel Hermann von Oppeln-Bronikowski, commanding the division's regiment of tanks, drove up and down the column in a *Volkswagen*. The city was a shambles. It had been bombed some time earlier and the bombers had done a good job. Streets were piled up with debris, and it seemed to Bronikowski that "everyone in the city was on the move trying to get out." The roads were choked with men and women on bicycles. There was no hope for the panzers. Bronikowski decided to pull back and go around the city. It would take hours, he knew, but there was no other way. And where was the regiment of troops that was supposed to support his attack when he did get through?

Nineteen-year-old Private Walter Hermes of the 21st Panzer Division's 192nd Regiment had never been so happy. It was glorious. He was leading the attack against the British! Hermes sat astride his motorcycle, weaving ahead of the advance company. They were heading toward the coast and soon they would pick up the tanks and then the 21st would drive the British into the sea. Everybody said so. Nearby on other motorcycles were his friends, Tetzlaw, Mattusch and Schard. All of them had expected to be attacked by the British before now, but nothing had happened. It seemed strange that they hadn't caught up with the tanks yet. But Hermes guessed that they must be somewhere ahead, probably attacking already on the coast. Hermes drove happily on, leading the advance company of the regiment up into the eight-mile gap that the British commandos still hadn't closed between Juno and Gold. This was a gap the panzers could have exploited to split the British beaches wide open and menace the entire Allied assault—a gap that Colonel von Oppeln-Bronikowski knew nothing whatever about.

THE BOOK OF

Joshua

1 NOW after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

4 From the wilderness and this Léb-à-non even unto the great river, the river Eù-phrà-tés, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

8 This book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

10 ¶ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

12 ¶ And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Mâ-nâs-séh, spake Joshua, saying,

13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.

14 Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them;

15 Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the

LORD's servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

16 ¶ And they answered Joshua, saying, As that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.

17 According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

18 Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.

2 AND Joshua the son of Nun sent out Shit-tim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go and view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night, the children of Israel to search out the country.

3 And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they come to search out all the country.

4 And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, and I wist not whence they were:

5 And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that they went out: whither the men went I wot not, sue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.

6 But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

7 And the men pursued after them the way of Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they were pursued after them were gone out, they shewed the gate.

8 ¶ And before they were laid down, she brought them up unto the roof:

9 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye went out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Si-hôn and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain more courage in any man, because of you: the LORD your God, he is God in heaven and in earth beneath.

12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father, and give me a true token:

13 And that ye will save alive my father, my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters,

and all that they have, and deliver our lives from your hand.

And the men answered her, Our life for thy life, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.

Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

And she said unto them, Get you to the plain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be removed: and afterward may ye go your way.

And the men said unto her, We will be sworn: as we swear,

Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt have this line of scarlet thread in the window, which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home with thee.

And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his head shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.

And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made to us.

And she said, According unto your words, so shall I do. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.

And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days, until the pursuing of them were returned: and the pursuers sought throughout all the way, but found them not.

So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came unto Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things which they had done.

And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

And Joshua rose early in the morning; and he removed from Shit-tim, and came to Jordan, and he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.

And it came to pass after three days, that the host went through the host;

and he commanded the people, saying, See ye the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the priests the Levites bearing it, shall remove from your place, and go before you.

There shall be a space between you and it, two thousand cubits by measure: come ye unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore.

And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Carry the ark of the covenant, and pass over

149

before the people. And t the covenant, and went b

7 ¶ And the LORD said, will I begin to magnify Israel, that they may know Moses, so I will be with th

8 And thou shalt comma the ark of the covenant come to the brink of the v stand still in Jordan.

9 ¶ And Joshua said unt Come hither, and hear t your God.

10 And Joshua said, Hei the living God is among without fail drive out Canaanites, and the Hitt and the Pè-riz-zites, and the Amorites, and the Jèb

11 Behold, the ark of th of all the earth passeth Jordan.

12 Now therefore take : the tribes of Israel, out of

13 And it shall come to soles of the feet of the prie the LORD, the Lord of all the waters of Jordan, tha shall be cut off from the v from above; and they sha

14 ¶ And it came to p removed from their tents and the priests bearing nant before the people;

15 And as they that ba unto Jordan, and the feet the ark were dipped in the Jordan overfloweth all hi harvest.)

16 That the waters wt above stood and rose up from the city Adam, that those that came down t plain, even the salt sea, fi and the people passed ove

17 And the priests that b nant of the LORD stood fir midst of Jordan, and all over on dry ground, unt passed clean over Jordan.

4 AND it came to pas ple were clean passed LORD spake unto Joshua, :

2 Take you twelve men o every tribe a man,

3 And command ye th hence out of the midst of J where the priests' feet sto and ye shall carry them ov them in the lodging place this night.

4 Then Joshua called the had prepared of the chil every tribe a man:

5 And Joshua said untc fore the ark of the LORD y of Jordan, and take ye u stone upon his shoulder number of the tribes of th

6 That this may be a sign