

11 May 1994

Mr. Brian Lamb  
C-SPAN  
400 North Capitol Street NW #650  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I watched most of the C-SPAN special production remembering the invasion of Normandy. It was difficult not to watch. That is, I had very little temptation to go 'channel surfing'. I do have one observation that I should like you to consider. I do wish and suggest that C-SPAN would be or, in this case, would have been more careful in the use of the words Nazi and German. This is a fine point and maybe an overly sensitive criticism on my part. I am a military man, [REDACTED]. When Adolf's Wehrmacht invaded Poland in September of '39, [REDACTED]. I do remember 'following' the war very closely by radio and LIFE magazine when I was four plus years old. [REDACTED] I also remember that [REDACTED] urging people of German descent, many born in Germany, to be loyal to the United States. I never saw the articles. I found out about this later when I came across a letter from J. Edgar Hoover thanking and commending [REDACTED] for his patriotic work. As a little boy I saw movies about the 'Dirty Japs' and the 'Dirty Nazis'. Of course, at the time I cheered those propaganda filled anti-Nazi and anti-Jap movies. The only real effect the anti-German movies had on me is that after each movie I had a tremendous taste for sauerkraut!

I am of Czechoslovakian descent, therefore not a thin skinned German. In fact, Hitler invaded, conquered and occupied my Fatherland. As I told my German friends, "Adolf hat auch eine kleine Urlaub in meine Heimat gemacht!" (Adolf also made a short vacation in my country). Now to my objection/criticism: Throughout your wonderful presentation on the Normandy Invasion, whenever the text came on the screen the words German and Nazi were used interchangeably. Once I recall both words were used together: Nazi Germans. [REDACTED]

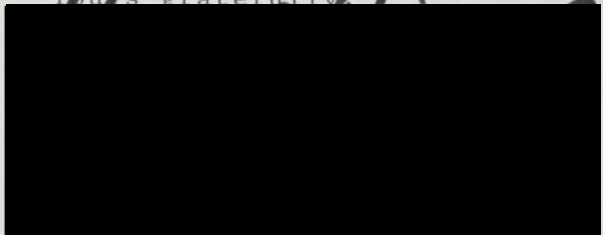
[REDACTED] I have many friends who are German. I have been in homes where I have seen pictures of beloved sons and fathers killed by the allies. I do know that many Germans were Nazis (card carrying) and many were supporters of the Nazi Party. It just was not accurate to indicate in the text that we were fighting the Nazi Party. We fought the German Army. We fought the Army of Germany. We fought as army filled with German draftees and conscripts from other countries. We know that most of the Germans who fought for their country were just German men, many anti-Nazi, fighting for their country. ... I think I've made my point so I will stop.



I want to thank you again for a superb remembrance of Normandy. If it is possible, could you correct the text for any repeat showings? I think the only time it is appropriate to use the term Nazi in connection with German soldiers is when speaking of the Waffen SS and Adolf Hitler's special units.

Thank you for considering my comments. Thank you for showing the very moving shots of the American and German cemeteries where those who died for their countries now rest in peace. Those voices, silent, invisible and unheard, speak louder than any other! Any Canadian, British or other allied cemeteries at Normandy?

Yours gratefully



P.S. I was also struck, but not surprised when Mr Keegan was asked about the cruelest leaders of the war or of that time, that he mentioned Hitler, the Bolsheviks but apparently could not bring himself to give Josef Stalin an 'Honorable Mention'.

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