

[REDACTED]
Washington, D.C. 20007

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D-Day Normandy
C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol St. NW
Washington, D.C.

This afternoon I watched with much interest most of your program on D-Day in Normandy. My perspective is a bit different from that of your participants in that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [as a press officer attached, for the occasion, to a British Landing Craft, Guns, that operated off Juno Beach].

Here are a few comments. The helpful map could be even more helpful if a fuller explanation were given. Viewers must be puzzled by that large white circle in the middle of the Channel with arrows leading in and out. As you surely know, all vessels passed through Zone Z (or "Piccadilly Circus") in order to pick up the channels cleared by minesweepers (the broad black stripe being the mine field) leading to their respective beaches.

All the veterans interviewed in today's program were Army people. Perhaps the Navy and Air Force will get their share of attention in other parts of the series. {I cannot be accused of service prejudice in this matter of emphasis; my own service, the Marine Corps, had no part in the operation except for the detachments normally on battleships and cruisers.)

Those old veterans on your program who spoke so poorly of President Clinton were very irritating. A veteran myself (of D-Day at Guadalcanal as well as D-Day Normandy, and later of landings in Southern France, and Okinawa), and equally old [REDACTED] I take quite a different view. There is much wry amusement in the thought that Reagan, whom such veterans tend to love, never heard a shot fired in anger, although he was certainly of an eligible age to serve, and the war in which he did *not* fight was the last "good war," fought with enormous public support. I don't recall his precise draft history; I do recall that he acted in training films.

The candor of those interviewed was refreshing. So many veterans tell tales that grow taller through the years. Many of those on your program frankly admitted that memories of old men are often unreliable or have faded

completely. In my own case, I must rely almost entirely on notes taken at the time of action, [REDACTED]

Much is said of the tremendous naval power involved in the D-Day operation. Such power was indeed most impressive in its amount and variety. As amphibious operations went, however, this one was not nearly as demanding of the Navy as some of the campaigns in the Pacific (such as Leyte and Okinawa) where men and weapons and supplies had to be landed from ships hundreds of miles from bases and where air cover had to be supplied by aircraft carriers. I wonder whether the difficult and decisive campaigns in the Pacific will get nearly the attention that D-Day Normandy does.

Thanks for an excellent program.

Yours truly,

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