

[REDACTED]  
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May 9, 1994

C SPAN  
400 N. Capitol Street Nw 650  
Washington DC 20001

RE: REMEMBERING D DAY 50 YEARS LATER

Dear Madam/Sir,

Congratulations for your shows of Saturday May 8 and Sunday May 9, 1994 about D Day. I tried to call during the show, but I could not get through. Enclosed is an article which appeared in the Charleston Post and Courier about what D Day means to me. In 1984, I also gave a luncheon for 175 D Day veterans of Indiana, where I was living at the time. This year, I am expecting approximately 50 South Carolina D-Day veterans for my luncheon on June 2.

I was surprised not to hear anything on either show about the Polish and French men who landed on D-Day. My Father was a member of the Free French Forces. I agree with one of your guests who said that Americans (or any foreigners, for that matter) are not always welcome in Paris, but in Normandy they certainly are. I also wish to add that some villages in Normandy were completely destroyed for military reasons, and the French citizens living there understood why this had to be done by the forces who came to liberate them, but remembering D-Day for these people is a somber occasion.

There is much commotion because this is the 50th anniversary of D-Day, but in France, and in Normandy in particular, D-Day is remembered by all French people every single year. A French singer named Michel Sardou even wrote a song about the D-Day soldiers. Even if we did not remember, the cemeteries in Normandy and in Suresnes outside Paris will never let us forget. I think that France and England have always remembered, but this cannot be said for the USA. Many D Day veterans have told me that the Vietnam War and the Gulf War have greatly overshadowed the heroic event that took place 50 years ago.

In my native country, I can assure you that we will never forget. Although France and the USA may not always agree politically today, what the USA did for France in 1944 remains deep in the hearts of all French citizens.

Once again, congratulations.

Sincerely yours,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Mt. Pleasant SC 29465  
[REDACTED]

# Normandy celebration special for Sullivan's Island man

Early this June, about a million visitors will descend on the coast of Normandy to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the invasion that led to victory in World War II.

Sullivan's Island businessman Bernard Marie will be one such visitor, but his will be a journey with a different twist. Most who go to Normandy will be military veterans, but not Marie. His vantage point on that "Longest Day" was through the eyes of a 5-year-old boy, huddled in the cellar of his family's home, barely a few hundred yards from the English Channel.

Despite his age at the time, Marie still has vivid memories of D-Day. Later, as he grew older, he was able to piece together other facts.

"I didn't know it at the time," Marie said last week, "but my father, Marcel, was a member of the Free French" fighting with Charles De-Gaulle."

The elder Marie had slipped out of France the year before and had made his way to England. Bernard's mother knew the facts, Marie of course, but never told their son for fear the youngster might let it slip out. Two German officers were billeted in their home, uninvited, and the family could never reveal the father's existence.

Instead, she told the boy his father had died.

Indeed, Marie's very presence at Normandy was happenstance. His mother had moved her son to Normandy the year before because conditions in Paris were worsening. Food was getting scarce and the mother thought the family home in the town of Luc-sur-Mer would be safer. Young Bernard celebrated his 5th birthday on June 5. He spent most of June 6 in a darkened cellar.

"We often heard the bombers flying overhead, moving inland," he

said. "This time, (the night before the invasion) they stayed over Normandy." Later that night, the Allied navies let loose a tremendous barrage leaving little doubt their plans for the rest of the day.

"I got out of that basement 10 to 12 hours later, and for the first time that I can remember, I saw my mother kissing a soldier," Marie said. "Always before, she was getting us out of the way of soldiers, because, of course, they were Germans. This one was an American."

The youngster saw his father the next day. The elder Marie had come ashore at Ouistreham, a few miles away.

Marie grew up in France, studied in England and came to America in 1979. He became a U.S. citizen in 1985 and moved to the Lowcountry five years ago. This June, he plans to pay his respects to the Americans who died at Omaha and Utah beaches, and those who scaled the cliffs at Pointe-du-Hoc.

"They had it very, very tough," he said.

But before he leaves for France, Marie wants to pay his respects to all Lowcountry D-Day veterans who plan to remain at home this June. He is planning a luncheon at noon, June 2, at Snee Farm Country Club.

Unfortunately, he has been able to locate only a handful of local D-Day vets. He hopes more will respond when they read this.

Asked why he remembers D-Day so vividly, he said, "You spend 10 or 12 hours in a basement, under a bombardment with no lights, and you'll never forget. Those children who have gone through the same thing over the past two years in Sarajevo, they'll never forget either."

D-Day vets may contact Marie at



**TERRY  
JOYCE**

*Military news*

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Raymond L. Denaux of Charleston writes that a paragraph in last week's column on the state income tax refunds many retirees will receive was "not 100 percent correct."

I had indicated that retirees will have to report their state tax refunds next year on their 1994 federal income tax returns. That's true only if they itemized their deductions for the years in which they are claiming a refund.

Writes Denaux: "If, for example, the retiree used the standard deduction in lieu of itemizing for each of the four years (1985 through 1988), then none of the refunds would be included on the 1994 (federal) return."

Denaux is correct, according to state Department of Revenue spokeswoman Vicki Ringer. Many retirees often use the standard deduction, especially if they no longer have any mortgage interest to deduct.

In any event, retirees should be alert to the possibility when they file their 1994 returns next year.

The Marines of the James Island Detachment of the Marine Corps League will install new officers at 2 p.m. today aboard the aircraft carrier Yorktown at Patriots Point.

All present and former Marines are invited.

Sharon Arnold of Goose Creek writes that about 30 Navy aviators from World War II, veterans of Patrol Bombing Squadron 206, are holding their 9th annual reunion in Charleston this weekend.

The squadron, which flew PBM Mariners, was briefly at Charleston for a few months in 1943. "They'll be retelling stories of hurricanes, tornadoes, fog and other tall tales during their illustrious career," Ms. Arnold writes.

The veterans are staying at the Hampton Inn in downtown Charleston.