

[REDACTED]
Auburn, AL 36830
May 13, 1994

Mr. Bryan Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capital Street
Suite 650
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Bryan:

I really appreciated the D-day program. The coverage was excellent. The main networks just were not in the same league with C-SPAN and its D-Day presentation. It was a lot of hours. When you run such long blocks of programming, I have to tape some of them and also watch your reruns.

You indicated that C-SPAN would have a victory program next year. I look forward to the proposed Victory Day program. Here are some things that might be important in helping younger generations to understand why the war happened in the first place and its dreadful consequences.

1. Since the assault on Japan was imminent when the Japanese surrendered, and there were continued losses of life after V-E day, it be unconscionable to combine the two celebrations unless the program would be aired on or about the V-J date.

2. The causes of the war, and the need to have a commitment to fight the war should be identified. Succeeding generations need to be educated about the conditions and evil people that caused the war. Nathan Hale said "Give me liberty or give me death", a broad spectrum of other people have also said that there situations in which life is not worth living. But, when it comes to fighting, General Patton said it best. "Don't give up your life for your country, make the other sob give up his life for his country". Here are some worrisome occurrences.

Example A. Some military deserted during the Gulf War for purely personal reasons.

Example B. The nurse on your D-Day call-in program had a son who could never understand why his mother went to war.

Example C. People seem to think that the world just started with them. One of Stephen Ambrose's books (A Band of Brothers, p 303 attached) tells about a report that the mayor, Jan Ritsema of Eindhoven, Holland, refused to meet with General H. Norman Shwartzkopf because he had "too much blood on his hands".

Example D. Shigeto Nagano, Justice Minister of Japan recently pronounced that Japan was not an aggressor in WW II.

Example E. The opening of the Holocaust memorial in Washington was again the event for scores of voices to claim that the Holocaust never happened.

3. The progress of the war prior to the declaration of war should be reviewed in sufficient scope to insure that operations in all theaters of war are covered. The crucial role of the United States in supporting other countries prior to its declarations of war should include such things as joint organization and planing for hostilities, lend lease, the battle of the Atlantic, mobilization in preparation for emergency, the development of war industries, and the volunteering of the people in a multitude of domestic programs designed to support (rationing of resources, sale of war bonds, collection of metals, victory gardens, etc.) the war effort. The enlistment of Americans in foreign armies to help in direct support of the war effort before the United States declared war. The transporting and training of allied personnel to the United States prior to America's entry into the war. The presence of the bodies of Allied personnel, who were killed in training in the United States, that still remain buried in military cemeteries near training bases in the United States.

4. The joint conduct of the war in all theaters of operation after Pearl Harbor should be reviewed in the same scope as in item No. 3. The surrender of Germany can be handled as an interim step, while not portraying the surrender in Europe as being essentially the end of the war. The buildup of forces in the Pacific for the final assault on Japan should be developed in such a way show the vast differences in the enemy and the nature of warfare in the China-Burma-India and Asiatic-Pacific theaters of operation. These differences caused President Truman to urge the Soviet Union to declare war on Japan and to employ the Atomic bomb. There should be a consideration of the consequence of demanding an unconditional surrender from the Axis powers.

5. There should be graphical coverage of starving personal and the mounds of dead bodies and other remains of the thousands of victims photographed at the time of capture of the German death camps. The same type of graphical coverage of skin and bone prisoners of war liberated in Japanese territories should be included.

6. There should be a presentation of the atrocities (to include cannibalism) committed against prisoners of war under the guise of medical experiments, germ warfare, unlawful interrogations,

the application of summary justice, starvation rations, inhuman conditions, and death marches.

7. There would also be a need to reflect on the general consequences of the war: Thirteen overrun nations were freed. The war ended with a hostile regime hold much of eastern Europe. Germany and Japan were demilitarized. The United States had new and expanded international responsibilities. The need to support the reconstruction of Europe by the Marshall Plan. The US supported the creation UN and NATO, and helped to stabilize Europe and eventually to bankrupt the communist eastern bloc. The US became addicted to defense preparedness spending that continues to bankrupt the country.

8. Moral and ethical problems that arose need to be reviewed. Although we felt good at the time, perhaps it was a hopeless attempt to change the human nature of mankind.

Example A. During WW II, about 4 percent of those who fell into German hands and about 27 percent of those who fell into Japanese hands were subject to atrocities and/or death. The victors set out to make aggressors pay for their crimes. The US participated in conducting war crimes trials in Nurnberg, Tokyo and Manila. It was believed that punishing those who committed the "unthinkable" crimes would prevent future murders and atrocities.

Example B. In spite of the war crimes trials, murder and atrocities continued in connection with military conflicts in Korea, Viet Nam, Cambodia and the Former Yugoslavia without let-up. Black Africa continues to be a killing zone. Is it possible or necessary to let by-gones be by-gones? Some of the peacemakers in Yugoslavia have said "forget the past, there has been enough killing, lets have peace again".

Example C. The story of the forced return of prisoners of war captured by the Allies, including the American forces. Eye witnesses reported that these prisoners were immediately murdered by the Soviets. The forcible return was required by the Yalta agreements. When the murders started and the Allied commanders realized what was happening, the forced return was ordered because there was a fear that Allied prisoners of war would be held in reprisal.

Example D. The major countries generally refrained from using chemical weapons.

Example E. Attempts have been made to outlaw other heinous weapons such as land mines (The May 15, 1994 New York Times reports that former battle area around such places as Khe Sanh, Viet Nam, although ill suited to raise crops, still

kill one innocent person each day, with no end in sight.

Example F. Large areas have been contaminated by persistent chemical and atomic residues that continually affect all types of living organisms.

9. There should be a summary of the cost of the war in terms of lives, the ruination of the economies of the world, the ruination of the lives of people, and the contamination of lands by ever dangerous munitions. There should be some estimate of the value of breaking codes, special equipment and weapons such as the Vls, V2s, armored vehicles, atomic bombs, kamakazi planes, radar, sonar, communications equipment.

On other subjects:

10. The warfare was so different in the Pacific that you might need to become familiar with procedures and equipment there. You should not be surprised to find that the Coast Guard also operated assault ships.

11. I fail to see that the FAX program contributes materially to call-in programs. Most of the FAXs come from idealogues with unheard of claims of 'facts' or with burning minutia. As a rule the panel members are not familiar with the FAXer's information and no intelligent reply is possible.

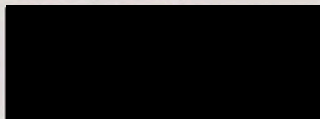
12. The only complainers seem to be conspirators, the liberals, and the conservatives. It seems like the old saying is correct. "It says everyone in the world is crazy except me and thee, and sometimes I wonder about thee!"

13. I am not sure, that while I can, I will ever send you a FAX. I seem to be able to take time to write.

14. I am very pleased with C-SPAN! We owe you a debt of gratitude!

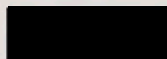
Do not bother to acknowledge this letter. You have better things to do.

Sincerely,



Encl

P.S. The Special on Book Notes was excellent
I always look forward to Book Notes. It steers me
to good reading.



BAND OF BROTHERS



*E Company, 506th Regiment,
101st Airborne
From Normandy to Hitler's
Eagle's Nest*

Stephen E. Ambrose

SIMON & SCHUSTER

New York London Toronto Sydney

Tokyo Singapore

1992

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credibly lucky that I got through it and even more fortunate that I was with this group of outstanding men."

In December, 1991, Gordon saw a story in the *Gulfport Sun Herald*. It related that Mayor Jan Ritsema of Eindhoven, Holland, had refused to meet General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, because the commander of the UN forces in the Gulf War had "too much blood on his hands." Ritsema said of Schwarzkopf, "He is the person who devised the most efficient way possible to kill as many people as possible."

Gordon wrote to Mayor Ritsema: "On September 17, 1944 I participated in the large airborne operation which was conducted to liberate your country. As a member of company E, 506th PIR, I landed near the small town of Son. The following day we moved south and liberated Eindhoven. While carrying out our assignment, we suffered casualties. That is war talk for bleeding. We occupied various defense positions for over two months. Like animals, we lived in holes, barns, and as best we could. The weather was cold and wet. In spite of the adverse conditions, we held the ground we had fought so hard to capture."

"The citizens of Holland at that time did not share your aversion to bloodshed when the blood being shed was that of the German occupiers of your city. How soon we forget. History has proven more than once that Holland could again be conquered if your neighbor, the Germans, are having a dull weekend and the golf links are crowded."

"Please don't allow your country to be swallowed up by Liechtenstein or the Vatican as I don't plan to return. As of now, you are on your own."

Sgt. Joe Toye describes his experiences: "After being hit (my fourth Purple Heart) at Bastogne, I went through a series of operations. The main operation being the amputation of my right leg above the knee. Then, later, I had two more operations, these were to remove shrapnel from my upper chest cavity—to remove them the surgeon went in through my back."

"I was married Dec. 15, 1945, while still in the hospital at Atlantic City. I was discharged from the Army Feb. 8, 1946."

He was given an 80 percent disability. Before the war he had been a molder in a foundry, but with a wooden leg he couldn't do the work. He found employment in a textile mill in Reading,