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Roanoke, Va

I enjoyed your program relating to the 50th anniversary of D. Day June 6. 1944.

During one of your programs around June 1, your gentleman was taking calls from veterans who had participated in the invasion. One army veteran expressed his thanks to the Army, Air Force, Navy & Coast Guard for their participation, he asked the question. What was the Coast Guard doing there.

Unfortunately many people like this gentleman are unaware of the Coast Guard contribution to World War 2. Indeed there is no display in the Coast Guard Museum in New London Conn. pertaining to the amphibious forces of which I served.

I am enclosing a History of the U.S. 6 Central APL 36 which I proudly served on for 26 months in the South Pacific. The Coast Guard also named the APL 35. Cavalier that the late Caesar Romero served on and the APL 37 Callaway in my squadron.

My ship mates have held many reunions and I am the ships historian. I have many documents & action photos of which I am particularly proud. 50 years ago today we were securing Japan after the invasion on the 15th of June getting ready to invade Iwo Jima on July 24

Sincerely,

While the majority of our ships are of World War II vintage, our goal is to achieve a 20-knot capability in the entire Amphibious Force. Speed, faster ships and landing craft, deployment of new techniques and the training of dedicated men... are essential to modernization of the Amphibious Force in meeting present and future responsibilities throughout the World.

HISTORY OF THE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

The United States Navy and Marine Corps have been developing techniques of amphibious warfare for more than thirty years. Seaborne assault was emphasized in Navy-Marine service schools and the theory was practiced through strenuous amphibious exercises.

During this period, the concept of deploying sea borne troops into combat ashore was analyzed and tested. Weapons and tactical units were tailored to fit the Navy's shipboard conditions, while data was compiled on "combat loading" the planned stowage of equipment and supplies to allow instant accessibility.

Although many technical contributions were made by all the armed services during World War II, the Navy-Marine Amphibious Doctrine underwent little fundamental change. Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Kwajalein, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, Okinawa all were rigid test for this type of warfare. Lessons learned during these, and other operations were applied later to the landings in Korea.

Just one example, Okinawa, shows the enormous flood of supplies that was furnished by amphibious forces. In 90 days the forces there put ashore 180,000 troops, 2,776 aircraft and 729,000 tons of supplies from 1,213 ships. In the first 15 days, an average of 435 box cars per day.

Much of today's Amphibious Force training takes place at the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia. Since 1946, the Amphibious Training Command has trained more than 200,000 Naval, Marine Corps and Army personnel, as well as Cadets and Midshipmen, in the complex methods of amphibious warfare.

History of CAMBRIA

USS CAMBRIA is a veteran of amphibious warfare. She was built by the Western Pipe and Steel Company at San Francisco, California and was completed in May 1943, as a U.S. Maritime Commission C-3 type for the Moore-McCormack Steamship Company. She was originally christened "SS SEA SWALLOW".

The Navy converted her to an APA (attack transport). In November 1943 she was commissioned "USS CAMBRIA" in honor of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, and turned over to the Coast Guard, which in war-time operates as part of the Navy.

CAMBRIA earned the Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Medal with six battle stars in the landings at Kwajalein, Majuro, Eniwetok, Saipan, Tinian, Leyte, Morotai, and Okinawa.

After the war, CAMBRIA was transferred from the Pacific to the Atlantic Amphibious Force, and the Navy took her over from the Coast Guard in 1946. All postwar operations have been out of Norfolk, Virginia. CAMBRIA has played an important role in the defense efforts of the United States. She has made many extended Mediterranean and Caribbean cruises during which embarked Marines were trained in assault landings. She participated in the Suez and Lebanon crisis in the Mediterranean, as well as many training exercises with troops from the Army, Marine Corps, Service Academies and Reserves,