

10 May 94

Mr. Brian P. Lamb,  
Chairman & CEO  
C-SPAN  
Wash, DC

Dear Brian,  
(My typewriter is "down", thus please bear w/ my longhand)

I'm a C-SPAN junkie of long-standing, and as I remember exchanged thumbs up signs w/ you during a visit to your office in July 1992.

While watching your retrospective on D-Day, a typically fine presentation, I got the idea that C-SPAN could use the same format for a 50th anniversary program, noting the end of the Pacific War. I think C-SPAN (and I'm certain the networks) had a feature on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor; and much has been <sup>done</sup> on the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombs; but I think there would be a compelling reason to run a look-back at the Okinawa operation which began on Love Day, 1 April 1945.

- 1) The assault on Okinawa in a sense represented all the major campaigns of WWII in the Pacific. In this sense, as a retrospective, it would stand as a powerful 50th anniversary documentary, using the same format as your D-Day presentation, i.e., videos, interviews and commentary.
- 2) Okinawa was the final great invasion before the planned assault on Japan itself (Op Olympic which was set for Nov 45 against Kyushu & Op Coronet, planned for March '46 against the Kanto Plain)
- 3) Okinawa was a wholly American operation except for a Royal Navy carrier task group attached to Halsey's Third Fleet (or Spruance's Fifth FL)
- 4) While not as large as D-Day, the Okinawa assault was an enormous undertaking; and from the standpoint of US Navy combatants involved, it dwarfed the Normandy operation.



5) The Kamikaze onslaught, which began on 5 April and extended through 15 August (the date of VJ Day, east longitude time), failed to destroy the Navy's screen around the island (of Okinawa), but it caused fearsome losses to our carriers, destroyer picket line around Okinawa and amphibious and logistic shipping so necessary to the fighting ashore. The "Divine Wind" (Kamikaze) is an epic in itself.

7) Okinawa was a large-unit battle fought over a much bigger land area than was true of the island-hopping campaign across the Central Pacific. The island was declared secured on 12 June, but tenacious Japanese resistance lasted up to Japan's surrender.

I think the Okinawa operation provides great drama and history. It turned out to be the last step in a bitter, no-quarter asked war and will be remembered by many of your viewers. My Navy experience covers Korea + Vietnam, but I had a brother at Okinawa and spent many hours as a cad studying the Pacific War.

My Navy brother at Quantico  
I had a brother studying the Pacific War  
as a lead Wash, DC/NOVA from 23-30 June  
I'll be in Wash, DC/NOVA from 23-30 June  
and would be available to discuss the foregoing. ~~If that made sense~~  
to or your programming people for an hour or so.  
May I hear from you about this?  
Kind regards & thanks in advance.  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted] 94957

~~Ross~~ Ross, CA 94957