


Hot Springs Village
Arkansas 71909

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN Network
400 Capitol St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

What an interesting two days last weekend reminiscing about D-Day. I tried all Saturday afternoon to get through on the phone to correct some erroneous information given by your guests, and to add some that they didn't know, such as the date of death by heart attack of BGEN Teddy Roosevelt; which beach the Canadians landed on, etc. I got through in mid-afternoon on Sunday, as the caller from Hot Springs, AR.

The next time you want accuracy about this event, or anything else concerning WW II, instead of rounding up some Englishman who has written a book about it, try hitting closer to home with someone who has studied the war for the past 30 years.

I've written no book, but I have read over 300 books on this subject, and consider myself well versed on the subject. If I don't have it in my head, I generally know where to find it, and most of the time it is in my library. I can't imagine any historian of that subject not knowing where Hitler was on D-Day, as that happened to be critical, along with the fact that his staff refused to wake him for several hours after the landings had started!

D-Day. The D stands for "deliverance." That was chosen the same as H-Hour, because the D goes with the word Day. Yes, the entire world now thinks of D-Day as June 6, 1944.

While I was watching on Sunday, no one mentioned that Sunday was VE-Day, the day the surrender of Germany was signed. That kind of oversight is what one gets when talking to people who know what happened in their immediate area, but have no knowledge of the larger picture.

Montgomery was given overall command of the invasion, and for some days thereafter. He was loath to give up this command, but when Ike had enough American forces ashore, he split this command and activated Bradley as ground commander---of the US forces only. As the force grew, and after Patton activated Third Army, Bradley's command was of 21st Army Group and Montgomery's was 12th Army Group. Ike never had an overall ground commander as he did for air and sea. Ike fancied this task for himself, but, with all his duties, couldn't manage it, and the force was the worse for lack of an overall ground commander, a post to which Montgomery tried to elect himself----several times. Ike came very close to firing him, but backed off, as Monty was the British national hero.

I've walked all over both American beaches, and studied the war in great detail while in Normandy. The map you use is good, but it is not the best. I bought the best map of the area at a small book store just outside the building where the Bayeux Tapestry is on display. I'm sure you saw it during your rounds making the tapes for background. I'd be happy to loan it to you for the coming shows if you need it. I paid 25 franks for it in 1982. It was highway robbery, but one needs a good map if one intends to do thorough work on a specific subject!

There is a very good book about the six major things that went wrong at Omaha Beach. Some of these same errors were made at the other beaches, but no beach had six detrimental happenings causing terrible casualties. The book is "The Far Shore" by Edward Ellsberg. It is very old, but the data therein is what makes it a vital part of knowing why things happened at Omaha, and didn't at the other beaches. Again, if you would like to read it, I will be glad to lend you my copy, as I'm relatively sure that, this side of the Library of Congress, it can't be found.

I hope you will see fit to answer my letter of March 30, 1994 with the name of the book about the IRS.

Again, if you are interested in accuracy about D-Day, I'd be glad to help in any way I can.

I am not going to Normandy, as this ^{was} ~~is~~ not my war. I was too young to have served, being born in 1931, but I caught Korea and Vietnam---Vietnam as a combat pilot in B-52s.

Sincerely

