

6 June 1994

Mr. Brian P. Lamb,  
Chairman & CEO  
C-Span  
Washington, D. C.

*Suggestion*

Dear Brian,

I'm a C-Span junkie of long standing and as I remember, exchanged "thumbs-up" signs with you during a visit to your offices 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 done on the Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-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.

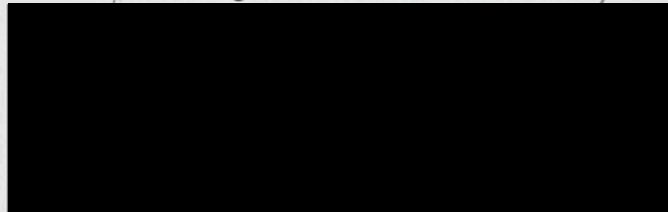
- 1) The assault on Okinawa, in a sense, represents all the campaigns of WWII in the Pacific. In this way, as a retrospective, it would stand as a powerful 50th anniversary documentary, using the same format as your D-Day presentation; i. e., videos, interviews and commentary.
- 2) Okinawa was the final great invasion before the planned assault on Japan itself (Operation Olympic, which was set for Nov '45 against Kyūshū and Operation Coronet, planned for March '46 against the Kantō Plain).
- 3) Okinawa was a wholly American operation except for a Royal Navy carrier task group attached to Halsey's Third Fleet.
- 4) While not as large as D-Day, the Okinawa assault was an enormous undertaking; and from the standpoint of U. S. 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.
- 6) Okinawa was a joint operation in every sense: the Navy/Marine Corps team, the Army and Air Force units.

- 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 enemy 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 and Viet Nam, but I had a brother at Okinawa and spent many hours as a lad studying the Pacific War.

I will be in the Washington area from 23-30 June. If this idea is of interest to you, I can be available to discuss it with you or your programming people. May I hear from you about this?

Kind regards and thanks in advance,



Ross, California 94957

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23-30 June: 