

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion



**Greater Dallas Veterans Day Parade
Celebrating on November 11, 2019
#Dallasvetsday**

The Armistice Day Story

At 11:00 am, November 11, 1918, the guns of World War I fell silent across Europe and Armistice Day was born. Eight years later a Presidential Proclamation invited people to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies. In time it was changed to Veterans Day and became the focal point for official national Veterans Day ceremonies.

Musical Prelude	Air National Guard Band of the Southwest
Master of Ceremonies	Scott Murray
Oath of Enlistment	Lieutenant General John Campbell, USAF (RET)
Presentation of the Colors	JROTC Color Guard
Massing of the Colors	DISD JROTC Cadets
Invocation	Colonel Craig Combs, USA (RET)
Pledge of Allegiance	Council Member Jamie Resendez
The National Anthem	MSgt Erika Stevens TXANG
Laying of the Wreath	Lieutenant General John Campbell, USAF (RET) Mr. Philip A. 'Pat' Teipel (FMR) US Army MSgt Bernard Miller, USMC (RET)
Rifle Salute.	Firing Detail, 2nd BN 14th Marines
TAPS	Larry Schnitzer
Missing Man Formation	T-38's, Euro-NATO Joint Pilot Training Wing, Sheppard AFB, Texas
Retire the Colors	DISD JROTC Cadets
Introduction of Mayor Eric Johnson	Scott Murray
Welcome Comments.	Mayor Eric Johnson
Keynote Speaker Introduction	Mr. Philip A. 'Pat' Teipel (FMR) US Army
Keynote Speaker	Consul General de France, Alexis Andres
Music Interlude	Air National Guard Band of the Southwest
Vintage Military	DC 47 Skytrain Flyover – Flight of Phoenix Aviation Museum
Veterans Day Parade	Parade Passes in Review in front of Dallas City Hall

OFFICER PARADE REVIEWING PARTY

Army	Brigadier General Paul E. Owen, USA
Marine Corps	Lieutenant General Richard E. Carey, USMC (RET)
Navy	Rear Admiral Chris "Tree" Sadler, USN (RET)
Air Force	Lieutenant General John Campbell, USAF (RET)
Coast Guard	Captain Nick Harper, USCG Aux (RET)
Merchant Marine	Commander Gini Mattson, USN

HONORED GUEST and Key note speaker Consul General de France Alexis ANDRES

Alexis ANDRES took up his post as Consul General of France in Houston on September 1st, 2017.

He holds a M.A. in History. He graduated from the Institut d'Etudes politiques in Strasbourg, France and also studied in St Louis at the University of Missouri. He joined the Ministère des Affaires étrangères after receiving his degree from the Ecole nationale d'Administration in 2001.

Alexis ANDRES held positions at the Ambassade de France in Hanoi, in Berlin and most recently in Algiers, where he served as counselor for cultural affairs. He also spent time in Lorraine, as sous-prefet for the district of Luneville.

Born in 1972 in Epinal in the Vosges area, Alexis ANDRES is married to Emmanuelle and has six children.



GRAND MARSHAL LTC James Megellas —Army (Born March 11, 1917)

James Megellas was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Midway through his senior year at Ripon College, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. James received his military commission on May 28th, 1942 as he walked the stage at his graduation from Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin. Simultaneously receiving his diploma and military orders, James became a newly commissioned officer in the United States Army.

James was originally assigned to the signal corps. He quickly grew bored with the required training and volunteered to join the newly formed paratroopers. He was assigned to the famed 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He quickly saw combat in the mountains outside Naples Italy. He was wounded and hospitalized. Later, in January of 1944, the 504th took part in the amphibious assault at Anzio. James was wounded once again. The regiment fought until April of 1944. Due to losses in Italy, the 504th did not see action again until Operation Market Garden.

James was in the thick of the action in Market-Garden. He took part in the famed crossing of the Waal River in Nijmegen. This action was depicted in the book and film, A Bridge Too Far. The American forces crossed the river in flimsy boats while under heavy machine gun fire. During the day's fighting, Megellas single-handedly attacked a German observation post and machine gun nest. For these actions, he was awarded the U.S. military's second-highest decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross. James was also the first American awarded the Military Order of Wilhelm, the oldest and highest honor awarded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The War continued for James. Later in December of 1944, his unit was rushed into the Battle of the Bulge. On January 28, 1945

Megellas' platoon was advancing towards Herresbach, Belgium. Struggling through heavy snow and freezing cold, they surprised 200

Germans who were advancing out of the town. Catching the Germans largely off-guard, the attack proved to be devastating, with the Americans killing and capturing a large number and causing many others to flee. As they prepared to assault the town, however, a German Mark V tank took aim at them. James ran towards it, and disabled it with a single grenade. Climbing on top of it, he then dropped another grenade into the tank, eliminating the threat to his men. He then led his men as they cleared and seized the town, and not one of his men was killed or injured. He was nominated for the Medal of Honor shortly afterward, but the account of his actions was not included in the original battle reports, and he was instead awarded the Silver Star.



In 1946, James left the army as a Captain. He continued to serve in the reserves for 16 more years. He retired as Lieutenant Colonel. In addition to his foreign honors, James has received over 25 awards for service and valor while serving in the U.S. Army. These honors include: the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, the Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, and six Campaign Stars, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Master Parachutist Badge to name but a few of his awards.

James presently lives in Colleyville, Texas. He turned 102 in March of 2019.

The Occupation of France, Operation Dragoon (Anvil) and the Liberation of Sister Cities: Dijon and Boulogne-Billancourt



Second Armored Division, Boulogne-Billancourt, August 25th, 1944



Place Marcel Sembat, Boulogne-Billancourt, August 25th, 1944

Occupation. After France and Great Britain declared war against Germany on September 3, 1939, France plunged into dark times. When the French-German armistice was signed on June 22, 1940, the resulting Vichy regime began brutal and intimidating tactics to ensure the submission of the French population. Bombing raids, executions, deportation, murders, famine, censorship and nightly curfews followed, along with excessive daily payments to cover the 300,000-strong occupying army's expenses.

Persecutions in France began as early as October 3, 1940, when anti-Jewish laws were passed and culminated into deportations of Jews from France from 1942 through July 1944 to Nazi concentration camps in Germany and Nazi-Occupied Poland. Of the 340,000 Jews living in metropolitan/continental France in 1940, more than 75,000 were deported to death camps, where about 72,500 were killed. Large numbers of French were also held in Germany as prisoners of war. As Nazi policies inspired a discontented minority, small groups, known as the French Resistance, emerged to fight against the Nazi occupation through active and passive resistance. As reprisals for these activities, authorities implemented harsh forms of collective punishment in August 1941 with thousands of hostages from the general population. During the 4-year occupation, an estimated 30,000 French civilian hostages were shot to intimidate others, who were involved in acts of resistance.

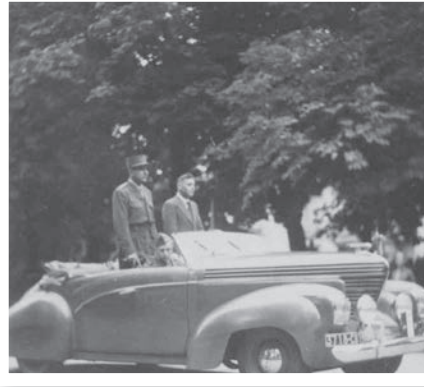
The French waited for liberation from the iron fist of the Vichy government, SS and Gestapo.

Southern Invasion and Operation Dragoon "the Anvil." D-Day's original plans included an Allied southern invasion through Provence, but supply and manpower limitations prevented this from happening. Then, in August 1943, U.S. and British leaders met in Quebec for the Quadrant Conference and approved plans in which the U.S. proposed larger southern landings and incorporation of the reconstituted French Army. The goal was to join General Patton's northern Third Army with the southern armies to create an important turning point in the Allied coalition. Although this little known invasion of the southern coast of France has been one of the least celebrated Allied combat operations of the Second World War and occurred against British objections, the United States assumed the role of strategic senior partner and was the leader in equipment, material production and numbers of soldiers. This remarkable although controversial campaign, as an amphibious attack through southern France and up the Rhône Valley, was a stunning success, proved to be one of the most important Allied campaigns and placed the U.S. as the senior driver of Allied strategy for the remainder of the war.

The southern campaign began in early July, 1944, when heavy bombers of the U.S. Fifteenth Air Force began preliminary air attacks against key bridges and rail lines throughout France's southern coastal regions. After August 4, heavy and medium bomber campaigns intensified; and by August 15, rail connections to Lyon were all but



*Foreign Legion flag, Cours du Parc, Dijon
September 15th, 1944*



*September 15th 1944, General de Lattre de
Tassigny commanding the French Army of
Liberation reviews the troops in Dijon*



*The parade arrives in front of City Hall in Dijon,
September 13th, 1944*

impossible, five-sixths of the major Rhône bridges were out of use and the German air force and naval units suffered significant losses.

On August 15, 1944, the Allies, led by the United States Seventh Army, implemented Operation Anvil / Dragoon. The U. S. Sixth Army Group was charged with the overall command of the U.S. Seventh Army and the French First Army (formed from the French Armée B). Strategies were planned in secrecy on the island of Corsica. Although the U.S. took the leadership position for the invasion, U.S. Lieutenant General Patch, a three-star General and commander of the U.S. Seventh Army, worked closely with French General Jean Joseph Marie de Lattre de Tassigny, a four-star French General. Together they planned the captured of the desperately needed southern ports, the liberation of strategic cities to enable faster entrance into the Rhône Valley, the subsequent push toward Lyon and Dijon and connection with the U. S. Third Army.

The Americans provided three assault divisions plus the First Airborne Task Force and the First Special Service Force; and the French provided the larger number overall of troops for the operation. Excited to play a major role in the liberation of France, the French wholeheartedly supported Anvil with the French I Corps (composed of the 3rd French Algerian Division, 4th Moroccan Mountain Division, and 2nd Moroccan Infantry Division), the French II Corps (composed of the 1st and 5th French Armored Divisions)

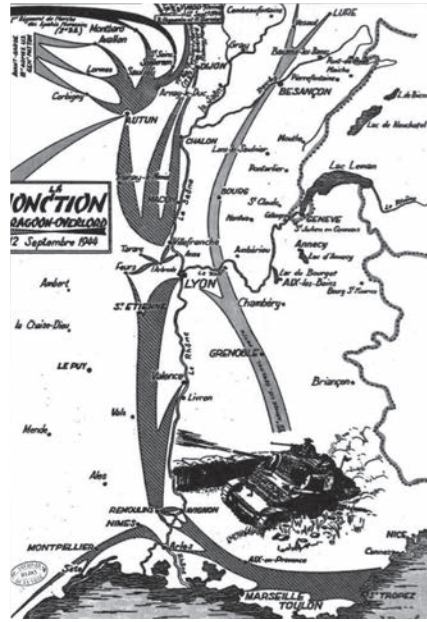
and the First March Infantry Division. The bulk of the French II Corps trained and waited anxiously in North Africa. An additional unit, the 9th Colonial French Infantry Division was stationed in Corsica preparing for combat. French Armée B was assigned the primary objectives of the campaign and the capture of ports in Toulon and Marseille. They took their responsibility very seriously to "hastened the hour of final victory."

By the morning of August 17, the "Texas" Division reached the "Blue Line," then rapidly moved northwest along highway N-7, toward Cannes and along N-85 (Route Napoleon). Meanwhile, French Armée B came ashore over the same landing beaches and, by August 21, surrounded Toulon to claim their first major victory in the liberation of France, followed by Marseilles on August 28. Within two weeks of the landings, the Allies had seized their two main objectives in less than half the projected time. In one month's time, the Seventh Army accelerated the German departure from France, opened new ports and airfields, enabled French commerce and industry to rehabilitate and destroyed huge Nazi soldier formations. These secured Mediterranean ports assured, within eight months, the transit of fourteen divisions and the average daily discharge of 18,000 tons of supplies. By May 8, 1945, 905,512 Allied troops and 4,123,794 tons of cargo passed through the ports of Marseille and Toulon, and 306,127 men, 69,312 vehicles; and 17,848 tons of gasoline had crossed Dragoon's beaches within six weeks of the landings.





Songs written to honor American soldiers



Map showing the 2 liberating armies junction on September 12th, 1944, 60 miles North of Dijon in Nod-sur-Seine



Dijon train station glass roof after the sabotage by the German army



The Sherman Duguay-Trouin armored vehicle as it can be seen in Dijon today on Cours Fleury

Following the war, General of the U.S. Army, Dwight Eisenhower, stated, "There was no development of that period which added more decisively to our advantage or aided us more in accomplishing the final and complete defeat of German forces than did this attack coming up the Rhône Valley from the Riviera." General Jacob Devers stated, "No operation in our history had up to then produced more decisive, dramatic, swift, and far-reaching results at so little cost."

French Resistance. The contribution of La Résistance to Operation Dragoon's success is considered to be indispensable. These small groups of armed men and women (the Maquis in rural areas) participated in guerrilla warfare activities, published underground newspapers, provided first-hand intelligence information and maintained escape networks that helped Allied soldiers and airmen, who were trapped behind enemy lines. They represented all economic levels and political leanings of French society: immigrants, academics, students, aristocrats, conservative Roman Catholics (including priests), liberals, anarchists and communists. After the June 6 Normandy and August 15 Provence/Mediterranean invasions, La Résistance facilitated the Allies' rapid advance through France. They provided military intelligence about German defenses, planned and executed sabotage on the electrical power grid, transport facilities and telecommunications networks, harassed supply and communication lines, scoured hills and patrolled at night. As de Lattre de Tassigny's forces moved north and east, more Maquis joined as regular soldiers and thousands of young French men flocked to the French First Army, confirming Eisenhower's contention that only in France would the French Army find suitable replacements

for its battle losses. As new recruits were added, the 137,000+ Maquis who joined the French First Army became collectively known as the French Forces of the Interior (FFI). They enabled France to rebuild the 4th largest army in the European theatre (1.2 million men) by VE Day (May 1945), which confirmed Eisenhower's contention that only in France would the French Army find suitable replacements for its battle losses. U.S. Army official history estimates that the "French contribution saved the United States alone from having to send eight to ten divisions into combat in Europe. These soldiers could be put to good use in the Pacific and elsewhere."

The heroic efforts of La Résistance were also politically and morally important to France, both during the Nazi occupation and for decades afterward, providing the country with "an inspiring example of the patriotic fulfillment of a national imperative." France has the third highest number of citizens who were awarded the "Righteous Among the Nations," an award given to "non-Jews who acted according to the most noble principles of humanity by risking their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust."

Liberation of Boulogne-Billancourt (Irving's Sister City since 1993 in southwest Greater Paris). On August 19, 1944, when the French flag was raised at Boulogne-Billancourt's police headquarters, the 7-day liberation process for Boulogne-Billancourt began. It culminated with a parade on August 25 and commemoration of a plaque on August 26. In the meantime, on August 20, a colonnade of workers and socialists headed toward town hall and raised the French flag in City Hall with a call to peace. The following day, after an uprising, members of the Local Liberation Committee took

possession of City Hall and posted the following “call to peace” bulletin for the local population:

“Make an urgent call to the residents of Boulogne-Billancourt and their request to save their peace and quiet in face of the important serious events which are taking place, and are capable of quickly escalating. It requests instantly to the public to abstain from all personal acts of retaliation and revenge, and to avoid public gathering that are susceptible of provoking a reaction from the troops of occupation. On the other hand, in agreement with the French Forces of the Interior, all acts of looting, theft, or attempted theft in whatever form it may be will be reprimanded with the fullest extent of force. Each individual must be in possession of all of their faculties, and must be ready at any instant to apply the instructions which may be given to him by the Local Liberation Committee. That each (person) would recall in these difficult moments, that Solidarity and Fraternity are the duty of all good French people. In these decisive hours, we ask you to place complete and entire trust in the “Organisms of Liberation” that the organization has already given evidence and given its full potential in the liberated provinces.”

During the following two days, 100 street barricades were built to block the Nazis from escaping. Then on August 25, the Allied Second Armored Division arrived in the city, cheered by a jubilant crowd. The significance of their liberation is acknowledged annually on August 25 with a parade in Greater Paris to commemorate this historic event.

Liberation of Dijon (Dallas’ Sister City since 1957). As the Allies continued to move forward in their liberation efforts, the Nazi’s destroyed railroad tracks, train stations and bridges, including those in Dijon on September 10. On September 11 the first Allies armored vehicles started rolling into Dijon’s suburbs. After 4 years of occupation, Dijon, the capital of Burgundy, was finally liberated through the combined actions of Operation Dragoon and the Maquisards.



The first armored vehicles enter Dijon on September 11th, 1944

Soldiers were greeted in front of Dijon’s Notre-Dame Cathedral. A replica of the Statue of Liberty was raised in one of Dijon’s central parks (Place Darcy) and a proclamation was issued by the city’s prefect, Marcel Lhuillier. By September 12, the press was free to proclaim “liberty;” and the following day, on September 13, a jubilant parade was held along Rue de la Liberté passing in front of Town Hall and Dijon’s historic Palais des Ducs. Annually Dijon formally celebrates this anniversary with a ceremony in Place Darcy followed by a parade to City Hall, speeches and a reception.

Meeting of the Normandy and Operation Dragoon Armies.

On September 12, in the small town of Nod-sur-Seine, located about 60 miles north of Dijon, the armies of the Normandy Invasion and Operation Dragoon met and continued to keep the German 19th Army off balance.

Sources: Dallas Dijon Sister Cities Committee
Military History Online, Bruce Malone, author, who works for the American Battle Monuments Commission and is currently Superintendent at Brittany American Cemetery in Normandy, France.
Archives Municipal, Ville-Dijon, France
Archives Municipal, Boulogne-Billancourt, France
French translation volunteers: Lisa-Marie Bogner and Pierrette Lacour
BBC History: WW2 Peoples War
Les Parisiennes: How the Women of Paris Lived, Loved, and Died
Under Nazi Occupation by Anne Sebba
Wikipedia



Liberation Parade, Rue de la Liberté, Dijon September 13th, 1944

The Legion d'Honneur for US veterans

The French Legion of Honor is an order of distinction established by Napoleon Bonaparte in May 1802. Created to honor extraordinary contributions to France, the Legion of Honor is France's highest distinction to express France's gratitude toward the United States veterans who risked their lives—and in many cases, gave their lives during World War II to fight on French territory—defending liberty. Those selected are appointed to the rank of Knight of the Legion of Honor. The award does not occur posthumously.

To be eligible for this outstanding award, the veteran has to fit strict criteria and have fought in at least one of the three main campaigns of the Liberation of France: Normandy, Provence/Southern France or Northern France.

Only a small number of Legion of Honor medals are awarded each year in the United States. Care is taken to nominate only those with the most distinguished records, such as the Bronze Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple

Heart, Silver Star and higher, earned in French territory, including ground, airspace and coastal waters. To be considered, these citations must have been issued during WWII or the close aftermath, and must relate to events (outstanding actions, wounds, having been made prisoner, evasions, having taken action with the resistance, etc.). Any outstanding action or special U.S. award will make application more readily successful, but it is not a condition for being considered.

American recipients include Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and Douglas MacArthur, Admiral Michael Mullen, and even, as an institution, the United States Military Academy at West Point. Today there are approximately 93,000 Legion of Honor recipients.

There is no precise American equivalent for the French Order of the Legion of Honor, but it can be likened to two U.S. decorations:

- *The Medal of Honor, which is the highest decoration for military actions.*
- *The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest decoration for civilian contributions.*



Recipient of the French Legion of Honor: PFC Fredrick Klein

Presented by Alexis Andres, Consul General of France in Houston

Frederick Klein was born in 1924 in New York City. After graduating from high school in January 1943, he was drafted and started basic training in the Army in June 1943. PFC Klein's Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Infantry Scout 761.

In early January 1944, he boarded the Ile de France and sailed to England. While in England, he received training in engineering combat intelligence, and joined the fight in Normandy with the 83rd Infantry Division.

In early August 1944, the Division moved to the Brittany Peninsula, overtaking the Germans in many towns including the capture of the Fortress Paula on Hill 48. From there, the Division moved to the Loire Valley. While in Nantes, he met a couple, who had an apple orchard. It was the most delicious apple he has ever eaten. The Division moved on to Luxembourg, Hurtgen Forest, Ardennes, Rhineland, Heart of Germany and Elbe River crossing.

Fred returned to the United States in early December 1945 and was honorably discharged. He has received the Bronze Star Medal, European African Middle Eastern Medal, Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

After his return to the United States, Fred attended the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy. Upon graduation, he worked as a pharmacist and married Marcia Stillman in 1953. He then went to the business side of the pharmaceutical industry and developed the first national mail-order-prescription program for employees and retirees as a benefit sponsored by various unions, companies and state and federal government agencies. Fred retired from the mail-order-pharmacy business in September 2003.

Fred and Marcia just celebrated their 66th anniversary earlier this month. They have a daughter, son, and four grandchildren.

DFW Area Servicemen Fallen On D-Day



S2 Henry Richard Alexander

Born February 2, 1917
Navy, Naval Reserve, NDU
Fort Worth, Texas

Tarrant County



Pvt. Nathan Don Corley

Born February 10, 1924
Army, 82nd Airborne Div., 507th PIR
Paradise, Texas

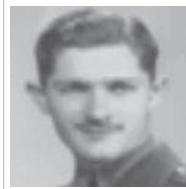
Wise County



PFC David Franklin Atcuson

Born May 7, 1913
Army, 90th Inf Div, 359th Inf Regt, Co C
Gainesville, Texas

Cooke County



1st Lt. Harold Clarence Donaldson

Born October 6, 1913
Army, 29th Inf. Div., 116th Inf. Regt.
Irving, Texas

Dallas County



PFC Orren Worth Billington

Born August 3, 1922
Army, 82nd Airborne, 508th PIR, Co. F
Fort Worth, Texas

Tarrant County



Cpl. Marvin Ray Farmer

Born October 5, 1921
Army, 746th Tank Battalion
Quinlan, Texas

Hunt County



1st Lt. Lowell Russell Brumley

Born November 10, 1920
Army Air Corps, 389th Bomber Group
Joshua, Texas

Johnson County



Tech4 Robert Delmar Hagler

Born March 8, 1911
Army, 146th ECB Co. A
Edgewood, Texas

Van Zandt County



PFC Marcom Olen Burns

Born February 24, 1924
Army, 146th ECB, Co. B
Dallas, Texas

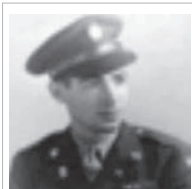
Dallas County



TSgt. Billy Mack Hollingsworth

Born July 31, 1924
Army Air Corps, 493rd Bomber Group
Mexia, Texas

Limestone County



S.Sgt. Tony Caddell

Born February 3, 1923
Army Air Corps, 493rd Bomber Group
Dallas, Texas

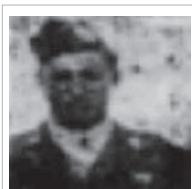
Dallas County



SSgt. Frank Ritchie Johnson

Born October 30, 1921
Army, 1st Inf. Div., 18th Inf Regt., Co I
Fort Worth, Texas

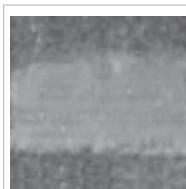
Tarrant County



Pvt. Cleo Thurmon Cooper

Born May 2, 1923
Army, 101st Airborne Div., 501st PIR
Slidell, Texas

Wise County



SSgt. Milton Edrington Jones

Born June 6, 1907
Army Air Corps, 435th TCG, 77th TCS
Fort Worth, Texas

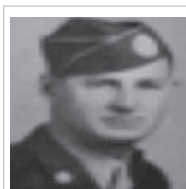
Tarrant County



Capt. Jack Grady Wilson Cooper

Born April 13, 1917
Army Air Corps, 493rd Bomber Group
Dallas, Texas

Dallas County



Cpl. Lewis Wesley Latimer

Born September 29, 1916
Army, 82nd Airborne Div., 508th PIR
Leonard, Texas

Fannin County



Tech4 Leroy Magures

Born April 13, 1911
Army, 741st Tank Batt., Co. C
Kemp, Texas

Kaufman County



PFC Rubin Oscar Strayhorn

Born July 22, 1922
Army, 82nd Airborne, 325th Glider Inf.
Trenton, Texas

Fannin County



PFC James Howard McGibboney

Born January 12, 1915
Army, 1st Inf. Div, 18th Inf. Regt. Co H
Dallas, Texas

Dallas County



Sgt. Glen Hubbard Stevens

Born September 8, 1918
Army, 82nd Airborne, 507 PIR, Co G
Anna, Texas

Collin County



LTJG Ralph Byrne Noble, Jr.

Born May 29, 1920
Navy, Naval Reserves, PC 1261
Highland Park, Texas

Dallas County



Pvt. Peter V. Waitkus

Born February 14, 1923
Army, 1st Inf. Div, 16th Inf. Reg.
Fort Worth, Texas

Tarrant County



Pvt. James Robert Reed

Born January 10, 1925
Army, 29th Inf Div, 116th Inf Regt
Graford, Texas

Palo Pinto County



TSgt. Roscoe "Buddy" Elonzo Wilson

Born December 24, 1920
Army Air Corps, 493rd Bomber Group
Italy, Texas

Ellis County



Sgt. Roy Herman Speake, Jr.

Born October 17, 1918
Army, 101st Airborne, 506 PIR, Co C
Gainesville, Texas

Cooke County

In Loving Memory

The ones we love never go away.
They walk beside us even on this day.
Unseen, unheard, yet always near.
Still loved. Still missed.
And very dear.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR / CITY OF DALLAS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, our democracy offers vast freedoms and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Nazi Germany made extensive military aggressions against Europe and England between 1939 and 1941 with the objective of conquering Europe; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress took initial steps toward U.S. involvement in World War II in January 1941 when the Lend-Lease Act was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in March 1941; and

WHEREAS, the United States declared war on Germany on December 11, 1941 after the December 7 attack on Pearl Harbor by the Empire of Japan; and

WHEREAS, U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower led Allied forces in Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944 with the military objective of liberating northwestern France from Nazi Germany's occupation, creating a second military front against Germany; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 1944, known as D-Day the invasion of Normandy, U.S. and its Allied paratroopers were dropped on a 50-mile stretch of beaches near Normandy France and U.S. and its Allied forces invaded the 50-miles of beaches with ground troops, creating the largest warfare invasion in history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas lost four of its finest young men on June 6, 1944 during the start of Operation Overlord: PFC Marcom Olen Burns, SSG Tony Caddell, Captain Jack Grady Wilson Cooper, and PFC James Howard McGibboney; and

WHEREAS, Dallas honors and remembers these heroic Dallas citizens for their service and the ultimate sacrifice made to preserve the freedom and liberty we enjoy today.

NOW THEREFORE, I MICHAEL S. RAWLINGS, mayor of the city of Dallas, and on behalf of the Dallas City Council do hereby proclaim June 6, 2019, as

D-DAY REMEMBRANCE DAY

in Dallas, Texas and encourage residents to remember the sacrifice these men paid 75-years ago on behalf of our country.



Mayor, The City of Dallas



What Free Men Will Do

75 Years On, Lessons From D-Day for Today's Army

By Col. Cole C. Kingseed, U.S. Army retired



Seventy-five years ago, the Allies stormed the Normandy beaches to confront Nazi totalitarianism and liberate Europe. D-Day, June 6, 1944, was a watershed event in World War II and arguably the defining moment of the 20th century in the West. To paraphrase Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower: American soldiers, in conjunction with America's allies, came for one purpose only, not to gain anything for themselves, not to fulfill any ambitions that the United States had for conquest, but to preserve freedom—systems of self-government in the world ... to make sure that Hitler could not destroy freedom in the world. It just shows what free men will do rather than be slaves.

By any standard, D-Day was the most complex and daring military operation in the history of Western warfare. By the time the full moon rose above the blood-stained French beaches, nearly 156,000 Allied soldiers had been deposited on the Continent. It was the beginning of the end of Nazi Germany. But why is D-Day relevant to today's American Army? What lessons can our fighting force derive from what Eisenhower termed "the Great Crusade"?

Importance of Coalition Warfare

First, the coalition that launched Operation Overlord was the most successful joint/combined operation in modern warfare. From the start, the U.S. depended on other nations—the Western coalition and the Soviet Union—to

defeat Nazi Germany. Eisenhower clearly understood that victory depended on the cooperation of powerful allies. Consequently, he appointed British officers as his principal subordinates to oversee all land, air and naval commanders. The U.S. could never have attempted the amphibious landings alone, to say nothing of the airborne operations that were heavily dependent on British ships and aircraft.

In a similar manner, Eisenhower's relationships—and frequent disagreements—with British Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery (Eisenhower's land forces commander), British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and French Gen. Charles de Gaulle were contentious at best. Relationships with American commanders such as Lt. Gens. Omar N.

Bradley and George S. Patton Jr., albeit not as confrontational as with Montgomery, tasked Eisenhower's patience as well. It was Eisenhower's ability to lay aside his own ego for the greater good of the Western coalition that made D-Day so successful.

The tension-filled political climate in the months preceding D-Day directly correlates to the current fragility of the NATO alliance, where there exists a perception of a loss of confidence in the United States' commitment to European defense. The Western coalition was founded in 1941 on mutual respect in addition to the threat of a common adversary. Three-quarters of a century since World War II, current political and military leaders should be reminded that America's warfighting capabilities are not only enhanced by a system of alliances but also on respect for its partners in the international community.

Story of American Resolve

Rick Atkinson, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Guns at Last Light: The War in Western Europe, 1944–1945*, opines that if D-Day proved anything, it's that American soldiers need not look far to know what they are fighting for. The grave markers in the American cemetery at Colleville sur Mer, France, remain stark reminders that the U.S. must confront totalitarianism in order to safeguard freedom for those who are unable to do so themselves.

Andy Rooney, the late Star and Stripes reporter who later gained notoriety as a folksy commentator on CBS' 60 Minutes, echoed Atkinson. Rooney wrote: "Even if you don't know anyone who died, the heart knows something the brain does not—and you weep. If you think the world is selfish and rotten, go to the cemetery at Colleville overlooking Omaha Beach. See what one group of men did for another on D-Day, June 6, 1944."

Fifty years after the Normandy invasion, a group of West Point cadets toured the battlefield. On visiting the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, one cadet said, "At times one has a tendency to forget the intense commitment and feelings that go into soldiering, but this is a place that brings you back and reminds you what being a soldier is all about." Another said, "Leading from the front became ingrained in my mind after studying Brig. Gen. Teddy Roosevelt Jr. on Utah Beach and Lt. Col. James Rudder at Pointe du Hoc." Leadership by example, the spirit of "Follow me!" carried the day.



Commander's Intent

D-Day's success rested on the ingenuity and flexibility of small-unit leaders to close with and destroy the enemy. Like today's fighting force, D-Day demonstrated the value of mission-type orders and a clear understanding of the concept of "commander's intent." First Sgt. "Bud" Lomell and Capt. Joe Dawson were but two of hundreds of officers and NCOs who remained focused on and accomplished their respective unit missions when they encountered unexpected obstacles.

Over the course of "the Longest Day," Lomell personally destroyed the German artillery battery at Pointe du Hoc, a mission that Bradley, the First Army commander, labeled the most dangerous mission on D-Day. That morning, Lomell scaled the 100-foot cliffs at Pointe du Hoc. When he reached the summit, Lomell and his Rangers discovered that the gun emplacements were vacant. Knowing his primary mission was to destroy the 155 mm enemy battery, Lomell led a two-man patrol inland and discovered the enemy battery set up in textbook battery position and prepared to fire on Utah Beach. Lomell quickly gathered several thermite grenades and started destroying the traversing and elevation mechanisms of each gun, which would render the battery inoperable.

Three miles east of Pointe du Hoc, Dawson, of the 1st Infantry Division's 16th Infantry Regiment, was reportedly the first company commander to lead his company to the top of the bluffs overlooking Omaha Beach. Landing in the second wave, Dawson later noted that "utter chaos reigned because the Germans controlled the field of fire completely. Most of the first wave lay dead or dying." Unfazed by the chaos he witnessed, Dawson collected the survivors and proceeded to the base of the bluffs.

Knowing his battalion's mission was to secure Colleville, Dawson led a squad to the crest of the bluff, dispatching two enemy machine gun emplacements in the process. He was first to crack the German defenses.

Lomell and Dawson were typical of the small-unit leaders who spearheaded the invasion. Along with their airborne counterparts, these valiant warriors personified Eisenhower's adage that before the battle is joined, plans are everything. Once the battle is joined, however, plans go out the window. These lessons mirror the challenges the U.S. Army faces today in the unconventional warfare prevalent in the Middle East.

Post-Traumatic Stress

D-Day also reminds today's Army that immersion in war requires medical treatment to combat the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder. One of the principal lessons of D-Day is that war does not end when the combatants sign the documents of surrender or an armistice, or when soldiers depart the battlefield.

PTSD is a mental health condition that develops in some people who have experienced or witnessed a terrifying event. Omaha Beach was such an event. For the soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division who stormed Omaha Beach, the assault was their initial taste of combat. But even the veteran 1st Infantry Division was appalled at the losses incurred by the first two waves that landed at H-Hour. Company A, 116th Regiment, 29th Division, the so-called Bedford Boys, suffered 90% killed, wounded or missing, including 19 from the town of Bedford, Virginia, alone.

According to historian Stephen E. Ambrose, as many as 25% of battle casualties were uninjured physically but were shaking or stunned, unable to hear or talk. Medics and doctors treated the men suffering from "battle fatigue" as close to the front lines as possible. Ninety of every 100 men diagnosed as exhaustion cases in the European Theater were restored to some form of duty, usually on the line.

Ernie Pyle, America's foremost war correspondent, captured the impact of the initial assault along the Normandy coast and the subsequent fighting in the hedgerow country. "There are days when you see things so horrible that you wonder what it is that can make this war worthwhile," he wrote. The American Army was still eight months from seeing the answer to Pyle's question when the Western Allies entered Germany.

Later Pyle wrote, "All of us together will have to learn how to reassemble our broken world into a pattern so firm and so fair that another great war cannot soon be possible. To tell the simple truth, most of us over in France don't pretend to know the right answer. All we can do is fumble and try once more—try out of the memory of our anguish—and be as tolerant with each other as we can."

D-Day's Aftermath

By the time the sun set on June 6, 1944, the Allies had secured a successful lodgment in Normandy. They had landed nearly 156,000 men onto French soil by aircraft and ship—75,215 across the beaches in the British or Commonwealth zone, 57,500 in the American zone, and 23,000 paratroopers and glider-borne infantry. Allied casualties on D-Day totaled over 10,000 men. The number of German casualties is unknown, but from that day, the Third Reich had less than a year to survive.

To those who survived D-Day, the end of the Longest Day provided a brief respite before the next day's engagements. Pvt. Felix Branham was a member of Company K, 116th Infantry, the regiment that took the heaviest casualties of the Allied regiments on D-Day. "I have gone through lots of tragedies since D-Day," he said, "but to me, D-Day will live with me till the day I die. It was the longest, most miserable, horrible day that I or anyone else ever went through." Sgt. John Ellery, 16th Regiment, recalled, "My contribution to the heroic tradition of the United States Army might have been the smallest achievement in the history of courage, but at least, for a time, I had walked in the company of very brave men."

Maj. Dick Winters of the 101st Airborne Division, one of Eisenhower's company commanders who received a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions at Brecourt Manor near Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, later reflected on the sacrifices of the soldiers of D-Day and addressed American soldiers, past and present. Winters said, "Wars do not make men great, but sometimes war brings out the greatness in good men." It seems a fitting epitaph and a lesson for today's Army.

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