

# Eisenhower Reminisces About D-Day Invasion

## Commander of Allied Force That Stormed French Coast Stresses Heroism of Troops

NEW YORK (AP) — In a preview of the 20th anniversary of D-Day, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower found the pleasant, peaceful beaches of Normandy "almost unreal to look at."

"Everything—the horizon is peaceful and outside there it's vacant and there's no smoke and fire and all the rest of it," said Gen. Eisenhower, supreme commander of the allied force which stormed the Nazi-held French coast.

"But it's a wonderful thing to believe, to remember this, what those fellows were fighting for and sacrificing for . . ."

The former President spoke on the CBS Reports national television program "D-Day Plus 20 Years: Eisenhower Returns to Normandy." The 90-minute program, taped last August, was shown Friday night.

With CBS reporter Walter Cronkite, and starting from the invasion headquarters in England, Gen. Eisenhower revisited the battlegrounds written into history by the soldiers in that World War II invasion.

The general talked about their fighting and sacrifices at Omaha and Utah beaches

and the others where the allied force stormed ashore on June 6, 1944, and the battles at Pointe du Hoc and Ste. Mere Eglise and elsewhere.

The tour ended at the American Cemetery at St. Laurent-on-the-Sea in Normandy, with Gen. Eisenhower saying:

"Walter, this D-Day has a very special meaning for me. And I'm not referring merely to the anxieties of the day, the anxieties that were a natural part of sending in an invasion where you knew that many hundreds of boys were going to give their lives, or be maimed forever.

"But my mind goes back so often to this fact—on D-Day, my own son graduated from West Point, and after his training with his division, he came over with the 71st Division, but that was some time after this event.

"But on the very day he was graduating, these men came here, British and other allies, and Americans, to storm these beaches for one purpose only, not to gain anything for ourselves, not to fulfill any ambitions that America had for conquest, but just to preserve freedom — systems of self-government in the world."