



—THE SIXTH OF JUNE, 1944—

What D-Day Was Like On Red Beach

NOTE — "The first six hours will be the toughest," Don Whitehead, AP correspondent with the First Infantry Division, heard an officer say aboard the ship carrying them to Normandy on D-Day—June 6, 1944. And tough those hours were, testing brave men to the utmost. Here, in the first of four articles on the Allied landings, a former AP newsman and double Pulitzer Prize winner recreates the drama as he lived it.

BY DON WHITEHEAD

Written for THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The first half of the day had fallen over, war-weary London, dropping a veil outside the

patched windows of my Chelsea flat. The telephone rang and when I picked up the receiver Ernie Pyle's voice said: "Hey, Don, come on over and bring your hunkies, I'm home!"

FELT DEATH

Even then the little guy had a premonition that he would not live through the war. (He was killed in the Pacific). In unguarded moments his face was sad. He

didn't like to be alone and he drew his friends around him as though they were a shield against a dark fear that was closing in. I told Ernie about a talk I had had that afternoon with Gen. Omar Bradley. "Bradley is certain the casualties won't be as bad as most people think. He's not buying the prediction that we're going to have up to 80 per cent of the first waves killed or wounded. He made me feel a lot better."

CURTAIN'S DOWN

I drew the blackout curtains and switched on the light and we had a drink from the bottle of bourbon which someone had brought to Ernie.

"Who are you going with on the landing?" he asked.

"I don't know," I said. "I hope it's the 1st Division."

"I guess the red one is still my favorite division," he said. "But I'll be with Bradley's headquarters."

URGENT CALL

It seemed I had hardly closed my eyes when the phone rang and a voice ordered me to report with my field equipment at an address near Hyde Park. Somehow I sensed that this was the beginning

of the great adventure. When I reached the address, I found Ernie, Jack Thompson of the Chicago Tribune, Tex O'Reilly of the New York Herald Tribune, and friends from other campaigns unloading their gear from taxis. It was May 28, 1944.

We loaded into jeeps and were driven from London toward the Channel. We spent the night in a dreary temporary camp and then, each other goodbye. I was taken to Weymouth and realized suddenly that I was entering the assembly area for the 1st Infantry Division with whom I had campaigned in Sicily.

ALL SERVICES

Maj. Gen. Clarence Huebner, the division's commander, greeted me. "We're glad to have you with

us, Don," he said. "We'll do everything we can to help you get your stories out. If you're hungry, we'll feed you. If you are wounded, we'll put you in a hospital. If you are killed, we'll bury you. So don't worry."

The hours moved swiftly. Troop filled into the invasion craft packed into the harbor. Bells rang. Chains clanked. Boated feet clumped on steel decks. Ship loudspeakers blared commands. And then Gen. Eisenhower made his decision and the great invasion fleet moved into the Channel.

Not until we were under way aboard the Chase did I know our destination—the coast of Normandy. Col. George Taylor, commanding the 1st Division's 3rd Regiment, unfolded the invasion plan. "The first six hours will be the

toughest," I heard him say. "That is the period during which we will be weakest. We've got to open the door. Somebody had to lead the way—and if we fail well, then the troops behind us will do the job."

As dawn washed away the darkness, we heard the bombers roaring overhead and saw the faint flashes of exploding bombs on the unseen shore. The loudspeaker voice called a boat number and our group silently clambered over the rail and down the rope net to the little invasion craft bobbing in the high waves. The storm that had swept the Channel the day before still was kicking up trouble.

A cold wind shipped sail, spray into my face like pellets of ice. The water soaked our clothes and ran into our boots.

Then we saw the beach. Easy Red Beach they called it. Shells exploded in the surf and machine gun bullets whizzed up ugly little spots of water. The roar of naval gunfire engulfed us and there were vicious hisses from shells whizzing by our craft.

The ramp of our craft lowered. We jumped into the surf and waded ashore, throwing ourselves behind a slight bank of shales where thousands of troops were huddled. It was the only protection against the blast of fire from the German positions on a bluff not more than two hundred yards from the water's edge.

Many officers were killed before their craft reached the beach. German guns poured a murderous

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GAS TRUCK EXPLOSION KILLS 11

Drowning Deaths Could Set Record

By BOB SLOUGH
News Staff Writer
(Second of a Series)
The "drowning season" has started.

It began when an 8-year-old boy took off his shoes and

waded in the creek on his way home from school. And when rivers and creeks began to attract people as warm weather set in.

"Safety officials fear that the current season may set an

all-time high," Tom Merrell says. He's a deputy chief of the Myrtle Beach Rescue Squad and an expert on drownings.

Why do safety officials fear record high in drownings this year?

Mr. Merrell gave these reasons: Per capita income is at an all-time high. More people will be vacationing.

Shorter work weeks mean more time for recreational swimming, water skiing, boating and fishing.

Modern motor moving equipment has made it possible for every farm to have its own irrigation pond.

Backyard swimming pool sales have skyrocketed.

More river cabins and beach houses have been constructed.

There are more boats on rivers and lakes than ever before. All these factors add up to a potential record number of drownings this year.

Many drown because they are not careful.

Mr. Merrell cited these reasons for some of the drownings:

"Fell out when boat made a sharp turn."

"Lucky boat."

"Son fell out of boat. Father jumped into the river in an attempt to rescue him. Both perished."

"Boat smashed into bridge."

"Apparently stepping from one boat to another."

"Water skiing. Struck piling while going under bridge."

Not all of the drownings last year came on hot, summer days.

At least three cases of drownings in North Carolina in 1958 involved falls through ice.

"The normally mild winter climate of the Carolinas does not often permit the freezing of water hard enough to allow for ice activities," Mr. Merrell said. "And it is natural for children who do not see ice often to want to get on it when ice does occur."

When they do "get on it" trouble often comes. A child slips through into the cold water and another accidental drowning case is reported.

But Mr. Merrell is more concerned with the "drowning season" because that's when the most lives are lost.



Twisted tank of propane gas truck rests against billboard after being hurled some 125 yards from road by force of blast after tanker truck and tractor-trailer collided in eastern Pennsylvania. (AP Photos)

Onlookers At Wreck Helpless

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, Pa. (AP)—A propane gas truck exploded on a heavily traveled eastern Pennsylvania highway today killing at least 11 persons. Some of the victims were as far as 100 yards from the blast.

"The tanker let loose and flames swept up the road like a ball of fire, killing people milling about the wreck," said a State Police Sgt. Melvin Closser reported.

Police said a tractor trailer rammed the rear of the gas truck setting it afire. It was a half hour after the crash, while firemen fought the flames, that the truck exploded.

Motorsists who climbed out of their cars to see what was holding up the early morning traffic, and just as the fire started, were watching at distances of from 100 to 300 feet up the highway. Some of them and a number of the fire fighters were injured. At least 15 others were injured, 5 seriously.

LIMBS BLOWN OFF

Frank Toohy, Pottsville Republican reporter, said parts of bodies were strewn over the highway. His partner, photographer Vince Ney, said the sight was as sickening as anything he had seen in military service.

State Trooper Earl Klinger, an eyewitness, said "the tank of the truck fanned the flaming gas out the front of the tank. The flames shot up the highway with the speed of a jet, carrying debris and parts of the truck, striking spectators and cutting them down like straw."

Another eyewitness, Chief Burgess H. B. Shoemaker of nearby Oradburg, said he was on a hill overlooking the highway—a heavily traveled route 100 miles from the scene of the explosion.

GREAT BLAST

"The flames shot 150 feet in the air from the gas truck and there was a terrific explosion," Shoemaker said.

"Parts of a stone wall outside an historic church were blown inward. Groups of spectators about 200 to 250 feet away from the scene were thrown down. The tank of the truck landed in a field 230 yards away."

Several school buses were on the highway near the scene just before the explosion at about 8:45 a. m. (EDT). The highway was jammed with people headed for work.

Trooper Klinger said a school bus was stopped to pick up children when the propane gas truck pulled up in back of it. The tractor trailer then smashed the rear of the gas truck. The school bus was immediately pulled away. Klinger said firemen battled the flames for about half an hour before the terrific explosion.

Klinger said that when he heard the rear he ducked down behind his police car. He was showered with pieces of rock when a boulder smashed through the windshield and out through the rear window of the car.

When he saw the tanker driver, said he saw the tanker and the propane gas truck colliding to sign papers formally committing him to a hospital—a commitment which could hold him against his will.

White Jacket, Please

Golden Will Pay Price Of Fame

By JULIAN SCHEER
News Staff Writer

There was a struggle up on Elizabeth Ave. today.

"I got a coat, pants, a shirt, a bow tie, that thing you wrap around the middle—the works," Harry L. Golden said.

Then the staff of the Carolina Institute squeezed him in it.

"The 'thing around the middle' was the cummerbund. Another editor Harry Golden was wrapping himself into a tuxedo for the first time in many years.

RENTS, BUYS

"A year ago I would have had to rent one, now I buy one. Imagine even wearing one, much less buying one!" he said.

"And why wear one at all?"

"A committee came to see me," he said.

Golden, author of the best-selling "Only in America," has made 101 speeches from coast-to-coast since Jan. 1. More than 100,000 people have heard him.

BLUE OR BLACK

"They've looked at a man in either blue suit or a black suit—often rumpled."

There was the speech before the city Temple Emanuel in New York City: the 50th anniversary celebration of Missouri's School of Journalism; a speech at the University of Michigan; Loyola College; fancy dress affairs given by Paul Muni, Eve Arden, George Jessel; and the annual banquet of the Charlotte Rotary Club.

"Once I wore the black coat and the blue pants and nobody knew the difference," he said.

Tonight it will be different. Golden speaks at the graduation exercises for Myers Park High School, Myers Park is a pretty fancy school. And the students wanted Harry Golden



The Resplendent Harry

to come combed, scrubbed and in "white coat."

A special committee dropped by a month ago and asked him to please come in fancy dress.

"Of course," he said. "I don't mind. This is the most important speech of my career. Imagine being asked by the school kids in your own hometown. They voted for me. For them, I'd do anything."

Is this the beginning of a new way of life for Golden?

"If you know anyone who wants to borrow a nice, new 48, short, stout, it's available. I won't be wearing it for a while..."

What Is Hank's .400 Secret?

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WEATHER

Showers and possibly a few scattered thunderstorms with locally heavy rain and not so warm. Wednesday partly cloudy and not so humid.

More weather data on Page 3-A

Ike Stands With Strauss

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower today told Republican Congressional leaders he has no intention of withdrawing the nomination of Lewis L. Strauss to be Secretary of Commerce—even if Strauss should request it.

Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois reported that Eisenhower also advised the leaders Strauss will not ask that his name be withdrawn.

Dirksen talked with newsmen after he and other party chiefs from the Capitol concluded their regular weekly meeting with Eisenhower.

The President's stand-off position means a showdown fight in the Senate over the Strauss nomination. Strauss has been under heavy fire, mainly from Democrats.

However, Dirksen predicted flatly that Strauss will be confirmed.

The Illinois Senator said he had talked to Eisenhower at today's conference about speculation that Strauss might request that his nomination be withdrawn, and the President might accede to such a request.

Eisenhower, Dirksen went on, authorized him to say that Strauss' name "will not be withdrawn," even if Strauss should request it.

"A large proportion of the boating and fishing accidents resulting in drownings last year occurred on the rivers," Mr. Merrell said. "A contributory cause in some of these accidents apparently was the currents and rain swollen condition of the streams."

"Most, however, were preventable accidents."

A number of persons engaged in swimming activities became drowning victims in lakes.

"These drownings are much like those in ponds and rivers," Mr. Merrell said. "They were caused by apparent unfamiliarity of the waters, carelessness, horseplay, rescue attempts and panic."

The seven-on-ditch Rhebus monkey, a passenger in the died last night while undergoing an operation for removal of a recording instrument. The Army said "there was no indication that the animal would not be able to withstand such a minor operation."

HEART SPORE

During administration of an anesthetic was noticed that the monkey suddenly developed a rapid and convulsive heart action. Attempts were made

110 Mile-An-Hour Chase Car Flips, Burns, Man Is Injured

By JOHN KILGO
News Staff Writer

An Alexander County man was injured this morning when his souped-up car flipped and burned after he led local ABC officers on a chase that exceeded speeds of 110 miles an hour.

Marshall Little, 24, was treated for his injuries at Mooreville Hospital and turned over to local officers.

He will be given a hearing this afternoon before the U.S. Commissioner on charges of violating the internal revenue code.

"We managed to gain ground with him on the curves. That car was driving well really move."

Little lost control of his car on a curve just inside Iredell County. It took three officers to pull him from the flaming car.

Agent Yates Lowe, who was driving the ABC car, said Little's 1949 Plymouth was equipped with a Chevrolet V-8 engine and two four-barrel carburetors.

Lowe and Agent Jack Hunter first spotted Little on Highway 21 N. just inside Iredell County.

"We pulled up beside him and sounded the siren," Lowe said, "and he kicked it."

"He brought us into Mecklenburg and we chased him over

most of the northern part of the county."

"I wasn't looking at the speedometer but Jack said we went over 110 miles an hour several times on straight roads and he was pulling off and leaving us."

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—OPERATION EFFECTS FATAL— Space Monkey Able Dies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Able, one of the two monkeys which rode a missile 300 miles into space, died last night while undergoing an operation for removal of a recording instrument. The Army said "there was no indication that the animal would not be able to withstand such a minor operation."

HEART SPORE

During administration of an anesthetic was noticed that the monkey suddenly developed a rapid and convulsive heart action. Attempts were made

at artificial respiration, but the monkey died at 10:45 p.m. (EST).

"The cause of death was rapid and convulsive movement of the heart, following the administration of the light surgical anesthesia, and was unrelated to its recent flight," the Army said.

Able's body is being sent to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology here for study.

The other monkey, named Baker, a one-pound squirrel monkey,

was also pointed out that John Seely Hospital and its affiliated psychiatric clinic are not commitment hospitals, indicating that it is an actual commitment is made it must be made at another place.

However sources here and elsewhere indicated that Long's family, through legal channels, request his retention for further observation.

Under Texas law, the Governor's family has until sometime tomorrow to sign papers formally committing him to a hospital—a commitment which could hold him against his will.