



Let us never forget Operation Overlord
(And all who died fighting totalitarianism and defending freedom)

By

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This year marks the 75th anniversary of the invasion — the largest amphibious assault ever launched. Consider for a moment that 10,000 Allied troops died on D-Day - June 6, 1944 and up to 9,000 Germans. This number does not include the thousands wounded who carried those wounds to the day they died. Many of them died never fully expressing the overwhelming reality of those moments that dominated their lives and that of their loved ones.

Consider that Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) according to the Department of Defense, from October 7, 2001 to December 31, 2014 cost us, 2,347 military deaths and approximately 20,000 injuries in and around Afghanistan. If you put those losses in perspective more people died and were injured on June 6, 1944 then all of our losses in Iraq and Afghanistan stretched out over many years.

It simply was a mind set, as I have heard from so many of the World War II veterans I know, "We had a job and we had to go do it." As we know many of them never fully discussed the details or the emotions that they experienced during their trials in combat.

Many attempted to paint pictures with words, in war correspondence like Ernie Pyle, Edward R. Morrow and many more, who immortalized the action with photographs that also told the story.

This point was driven home to me in the 1990s when I was Vice President of the Press Club of San Francisco. The President of the club was a quiet man who perhaps took the most definitive picture of the Second World War.

His name was Joe Rosenthal. His picture of the Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima became the official Marine Corps Memorial in Washington DC. Joe never made a fuss about what he did or even talked much about it. When asked he simply said "I had a job to do and I took a picture of others guys doing their job."

World War II was the deadliest conflict in human history. Today let us please remember all of those who put on a uniform regardless of the conflict, when their country called. They risked their lives and especially today, we remember those who gave their lives for what our forefathers said was our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

May God bless them for the price they paid for us all!



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