



ALL EARS!!

*The Litchfield Fund
Weekly Newsletter*

"We just don't hear it on the street, we have our ears spread across all the fields!!!!!"



Litchfield

On D-Day, perhaps the most monumental day in human history, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower penned a note to himself, "*If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt, it is mine alone.*" Ike knew what was at stake! The basic *unalienable* human rights, endowed by the Creator & protected for Americans by two fragile parchment documents, were under assault from evil empires across the world. To his troops, the General said, "*Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you.*"

(This Memorial Day, as usual, we step aside from our regular format to honor those who protect & serve our Great Nation!)

The Eyes of the World: In [All Ears!! 05/23/15](#) we described 1942 as the most critical year in American history! Despite that victory at the *Battle of Midway*, which stemmed the Japanese advance in the South Pacific, the world situation had not changed much 75 years ago on 6 June 1944. The Americans were still island hopping through the Pacific but enormous battles remained to be fought. Meanwhile, the Japanese had strengthened their hold on certain parts of Burma, China & India & had yet to unleash the *Divine Wind*, the Kamikaze attacks on USA ships. Japan vowed to fight to the death of all of its citizens, so the USA command ordered 1M Purple Hearts for the Japanese invasion! That same supply is still used today. In Europe, the Nazi U-boat threat had been neutralized; North Africa had been secured in seesaw WWI style artillery battles fought at Tobruk & El Alamein (with much more deadly WWII armament & tanks) & the Suez Canal was safely in Allied hands! Despite victory in Sicily & the fall of fascist dictator Mussolini, Italy was now a mountainous rock German fortress, making the Allied advance toward the Alps slow & costly. The Soviet Union & Germany traded real estate in a battle of attrition on the Eastern front, but in June, 1944 the battle lines were still well beyond Estonia & the Ukraine, far from Berlin. Daily aerial bombardment of Europe had done damage to the Luftwaffe & the Nazi war machine, but at the enormous cost of Allied pilots, crews & planes. Unknown to most, the Nazis were systematically engaged in genocide, killing 12M Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, disabled & anyone else who did not adhere to their beliefs. Europe was firmly in the Nazi grasp.

Two weeks after Pearl Harbor, Sir Winston Churchill visited FDR in Washington DC, where the policy of Europe First was decided. (This left the USA short of men & material as they battled their way, slowly & solely, across the Pacific.) And so began the buildup of men & equipment on the British Isles. By 6 June 1944 some 2M American soldiers were in England & tens of thousands of ships, planes, tanks, trucks, jeeps & artillery pieces. For more than a year before D-Day, the counter-intelligence effort, *Operation Fortitude*, was underway, designed to convince the Nazis that the invasion would occur at either Pas de Calais or in Norway. Fake battle groups were created, one under the command of the General the Nazis *most feared*, George S. Patton, adding credibility! Phony radio traffic was broadcast for German ears, fake documents & information were leaked by double agents & fake tanks & jeeps (made of wood or balloons) were built for the eyes of German spies. More than once though, *Operation Overlord* (the Normandy invasion) was at risk of being discovered. Several documents, without specific detail, fell into enemy hands & just 6 weeks before the invasion, *Operation Tiger*, a D-Day rehearsal, was intercepted by German E-boats, resulting in more than 700 American deaths. But finally, 24 hours before the invasion,

Radio Londres (the BBC broadcast to the French people) aired words from Verlaine's poem *Chanson d'automne*, "*Blessent mon cœur d'une langueur monotone*" (wound my heart with a monotonous languor) to call the French underground to action.

The first men into France were the Pathfinders, dropped by plane & alone among the enemy. The Nazis kept France blacked out at night, so their job was to light the way for the C-47s loaded with American paratroopers & British gliders filled with commandos. These advance troops would hold bridges & important crossroads, staving off Tiger & Panzer tanks with just machine guns, hand grenades & bazookas. At dawn, 5K ships filled the English Channel, bombarding the beaches & ready to launch thousands of landing craft crowded with 175K men! More than 10K planes roared through the sky! (The planes' ammo belts were 27 feet long; flight crews were ordered *to load the whole 9 yards!*) Waiting in France were a million Nazi troops, who had spent four years building this *Atlantic Wall*; concrete fortifications, gun emplacements & land-mined beaches with steel landing obstacles. Despite the Germans not bringing reserve Panzer units into action (the German Generals' feared waking a sleeping Fuhrer to get the permission), the invasion was in doubt until US Army Engineers & Rangers used Bangalore torpedoes to burst through the fortifications at Omaha Beach & move inland! Of course, the war was far from over. It would take two months for the Allies to fight their way through the *Hedge Rows*, *Operation Market Garden* failed, the *Battle of the Bulge* punched through the Allied lines & Patton's 3rd Army was shorted gas so he would not outrun Montgomery or the Soviet Union to Berlin!

The American men on D-Day were mere boys just months earlier. Today, they would be sitting in a coffee shop or college classroom discussing the injustices of the world. But on D-Day, *these men* had already endured a decade of economic depression. A rifle & a wrench were part of their *natural being*. They hunted to survive: deer, rabbit, pigeon & even squirrel. They fixed every vehicle themselves, on the road or on the farm. They were farmers, miners, factory workers, shop clerks, soda jerks & pump jockeys. They likely had never left their hometown or county, let alone the country; been on a train, boat or plane. They probably could not locate Normandy on a map, let alone places like Saipan, Corregidor, Tinian or Papua. But yet, they were *true warriors*, called to fight the *greatest injustice* on Earth man could create. They attacked the *Gates of a Fascist Hell*; broke through them; only because they understood the difference between good & evil.

After V-E Day, the socialist, communist, Soviet Union kept the lands they seized, creating an *Iron Curtain*, a wall to keep those people *in & subjugated*. But despite the sacrifice of our American youth, *the eyes of the world* saw the USA claim no territory, wealth or riches. In fact, the leader of our war effort, Gen. George Marshall, after the war as our Secretary of State, developed the *Marshall Plan*, the USA spending \$12B (\$100B today) to rebuild Western Europe, *including Germany & Italy!* This is an example of America's Greatness, our Values & our Exceptionalism. We are free; with a right to *life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness*. We have men & women willing to *fight & die* to ensure that right not just for us but for oppressed people in far off lands they will never meet or know. For this they garner no riches; perhaps only a well-deserved medal! But to them we owe everything & our humble gratitude is never enough. We owe more to those who died, *those eternal soldiers*, forever watchful of what we will do with the freedoms for which they died & the legacy they left us! *May God Bless all those who serve & protect our Great Nation.*

Seeds, Sprouts, Grow, Harvest!

The Litchfield Fund – *Tom Malanga*

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