

Before D-Day

In May and June of 1944, the local papers were full of war news. The National Selective Service issued draft policies whereby men aged 18 through 25 would be likely to see service, unless irreplaceable in essential activities; and men 26 through 37 would likely remain in civil life if engaged in war production or national health and safety. Men over age 38 would not be inducted in the services.

A Fifth War Loan began in June 1944. Securities sold included Series E, F and G Savings Bonds; Series C Savings Notes; and assorted other bonds. Advertisements, sponsored by local businesses, filled the papers: "Wherever your invasion forces are fighting – at sea, in the air, on the ground – they're working together for victory. They know that they must depend on each other, for only by coordinated teamwork will they win through to final victory..... The Fifth War Loan starts next week. It's going to take teamwork to put this drive over the top.every one of us must mobilize for support of our fighting men.....When your Volunteer Worker calls, double your war bond subscription. It's their job to help raise \$16 billion [about \$214 billion today] \$6 billion from individuals like yourself. Welcome your Victory volunteer with a friendly smile and an open checkbook – remember that it's teamwork that does it!"

A War Loan Rally was organized in Lewisburg for June 13, with music provided by Bucknell University band. Chief Burgess Elmer L. Wagner planned the event with Dayton L. Ranck, chairman of the Union County War Finance Committee. Ranck announced that \$790,000 was to be raised in Union County by July 8.

The Emergency Farm Labor Office, headed by Fred Showalter, opened June 1, tasked with enrolling people of all ages for part-time and full-time work harvesting crops. Union County had a waste paper drive, with paper collected by high schoolers, scouts and Sunday school classes. The paper-drive notice reminded locals of the situation overseas: "to throw away or burn a piece of paper half the size of one's hand would result in a fine in England." There were drives for metals and many things were rationed, including gasoline and tires. Local industries were involved in the war effort, such as Kooltex in Mifflinburg, which received orders for 40,000 pairs of men's shorts for the Army, one of several government contracts.

D-Day

"On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end on June 6, the Allies gained a foot- hold in Normandy. The D-Day cost was high – more than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded -- but more than 100,000 soldiers began the march across Europe to defeat Hitler." [<http://www.army.mil/d-day/>]

A special 1993 publication, "50 Year Commemorative World War II," by the Lewisburg Daily

Journal and Milton Daily Standard lists WWII soldiers from the area. The information, compiled by David Lusk, was taken from veterans burial cards in the files of the Union County Veterans Affairs Office, at that time directed by Colonel Philip K. Frederick, Jr., US Air Force (Ret.), with Helen Crawford, secretary.

In the section on Union County veterans killed in action, we find the following who fell after the D-Day invasion: William R. Bennett, Sergeant US Army Infantry, killed in action 1 September 1944, France; Charles D. Hoffman, Private US Army Infantry, killed in action 6 October 1944, Nancy, France; Harvey C. Huff, Private US Army Infantry, killed in action 12 August 1944; Raymond Kroh, Private US Army Infantry, killed in action 1 July 1944; Kenneth M. Long, Tech. Sergeant US Army Infantry, killed in action 17 June 1944, Normandy, France; John R. Maurer, Private 1st Class US Army Infantry, killed in action 9 November 1944; Alvin Miller, Private US Army Infantry, killed in action 11 November 1944; Donald L. Ringler, 1st Lieutenant US Army Infantry, killed 22 July 1944; William W. Saans, 1st Lieutenant US Army Air Force, killed in action 28 July 1944, Ploesti, Romania; Bright M. Strassner, Private US Army Infantry, killed in action 19 July 1944, Normandy, France; Charles L. Yost, Buck Sergeant US Army Calvary, killed in action 18 December 1944, Belgium. During the Battle of the Bulge, Belgium: Albert E. Coleman, Sergeant US Army Infantry (Anti-tank), killed in action 17 January 1945, and Leroy K. Shetler Private 1st Class US Army Infantry, killed in action 9 February 1945. Many more were to follow before VE Day and VJ Day.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1944

THE LEWISBURG JOURNAL, LEWISBURG, PENNA.

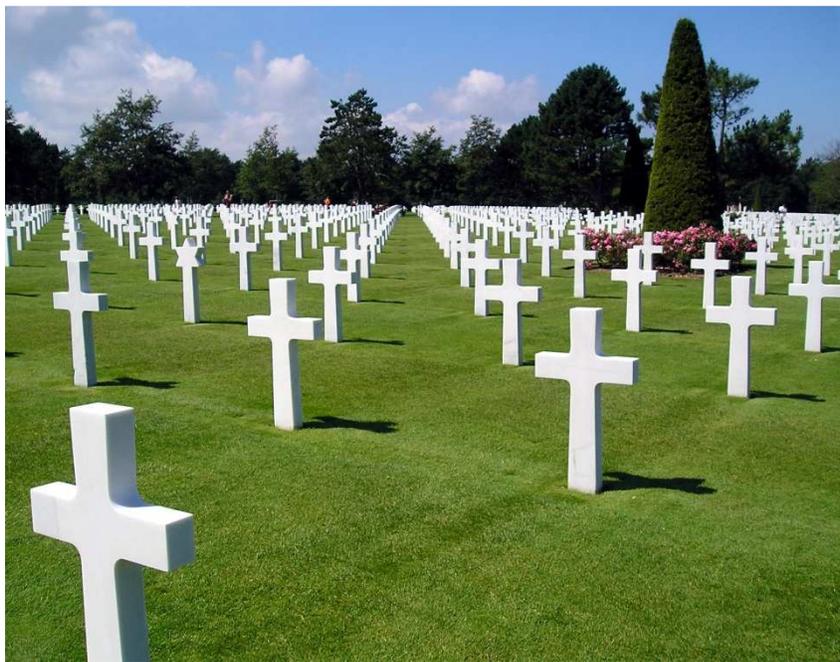
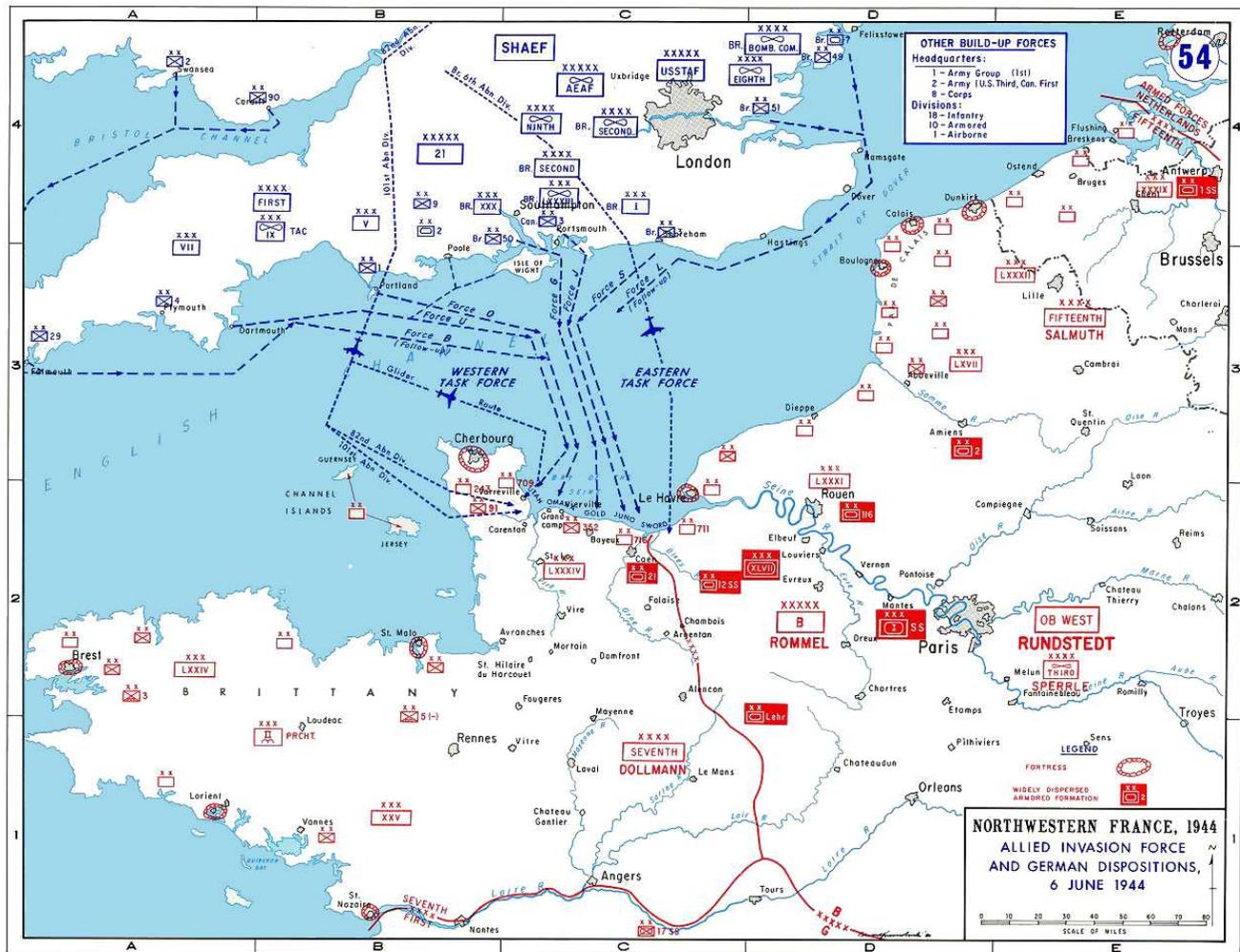
PAGE SEVEN

IT'S TEAMWORK THAT DOES IT



The 5th War Loan starts next week!

cont.



Cimetière_américain_de_Colleville-sur-Mer