

D-DAY TIMELINE: THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF WW2

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT – Bloody Omaha

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I've never known the actual figures, but we lost a lot of B-Company men that day.

The company commander, he went off in the boat ahead of me. He was killed. Sergeant Wright was killed. I went off and somehow went off to the side and I made it.

They didn't get me on the initial thing. When I come up – I went down – when I come up I left that radio on the bottom of the ocean there.

Sapper Costa, the company commander, was hollering and screaming: "I'm hit! I'm hit!"

I started towards him and he went down. When I got over to where he went down, blood was bubbling up. I said, "There's no way to save him, I better save myself". And I started trying to make it to the beach.

It took me an hour and a half to get to the beach. I found a log floating. One of those obstacles, a boat had hit it and blown it up. And it was just floating in the water and I got it and pushed it in front of me. Very slow. I was trying to keep from making any motion.

And when I finally got to the beach, I crawled upon the sand and there was Dick Wright, my sergeant and my friend. He had gone off ahead of me but he was full of bullet holes and he was hollering, "I'm hit! I'm hit!"

And he raised up on his elbows. That was his mistake, because in that machine gun nest was a rifleman, a sniper, with a telescope. And he picked him up. And he hit him right in the head. And his face dropped right in the sand.

Well, I knew he had seen me. So I buried my face in the sand and just waited for the shot to come. I covered my head with my hands and did what I knew of the 23rd psalm, which wasn't a whole lot, and just laid there for about 30 minutes.

I said, "I can't stay here". Evidently other targets – there were so many targets coming in on the boats – that he evidently had better targets, more of them.

And I crawled in a 30 minutes or longer crawl. I used one dead man to another. I crawled from one dead man to another. Crawled by leg. Arm. And of course all hell was breaking loose. Firing guns everywhere. Mortar shells hitting, artillery shells – it was just unbelievable.