

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

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT – Bombardment

[Captain John C. Raaen Jr.]

It was very rough. It wasn't too bad immediately alongside the ship because there's a certain amount of calming effect that the ship has. It blocks waves from one direction and that type of thing – blocks wind.

But as we sailed out we were running into seas that were running somewhere between six and maybe eight feet. And since the freeboard is only about three feet or four feet, there was an awful lot of shower action and it wasn't long before we found we had to start bailing because the pumps just couldn't handle the amount of water that came aboard. So everybody was drenched. Everybody was miserable. The winds were still pretty high and so if you managed to get up, in bailing, you'd get up into the wind and it made it very cold. But using the helmets we were able to keep the water level reasonably low.

[Off camera]

And a lot of people were seasick weren't they?

[Captain John C. Raaen Jr.]

A lot were seasick. I'd say that probably 50 to 80 per cent got seasick going in. And there's little wonder, because it was so rough that people who are not accustomed to that kind of thing are going to get seasick.

I myself did not and I consider myself lucky.

[Off camera]

And how did you feel as you were setting off in the landing craft towards the Pointe du Hoc?

[Captain John C. Raaen Jr.]

It's finally here. That's really I think what everybody felt. It's finally here. We've been training for, well, I guess it was nine months by that point, and it was finally here.