

D - Day, 18 Years Ago, Was No Day For Picnic

By REMER TYSON
Written for the AP

VALDOSTA, Ga. (AP)—It was no day for a picnic. And there wasn't one.

The water of the English Channel bubbled and spat as if angry that the warriors were upon it.

The gate to the landing craft infantry flopped into the salty water 250 yards from France. The man with the guideline started out through the opening left by the falling gate. A bullet in the forehead stopped his first step.

George Abood, a young medic from Valdosta, lifted up the guideline man's head. The man was beyond help.

Laden with a stretcher and medical supplies, Abood jumped into the icy water and struggled to Omaha Beach.

The Gettysburg of World War II had begun—D-Day, June 6, 1944.

As German bullets picked up more fury in the channel, Abood and his companions headed toward Easy Red — their destination tabbed with a military name filled with irony.

There was nothing easy about getting onto and holding that center strip of Omaha Beach, but

it ran red that day with human blood.

Abood, now a salesman in a Valdosta clothing store, was a member of the 480-man 6th Naval Beach Battalion, a vanguard unit whose job was to clear the way for waves of foot soldiers.

For 41 per cent of the unit, D-Day was death day.

The battalion somehow made its way onto Easy Red between 6:15 and 7 a.m., then machinegun fire and shells from the feared German 88s pinned it between two small hills.

For six long hours the unit was at the mercy — and none was shown — of the enemy. The tide and other factors had delayed the infantry.

Water was at their backs and a well-trained, disciplined foe was almost in their faces.

"You could see the enemy in the hills. They were dotted all across there," said Abood.

"We had casualties lined up along the beach. We couldn't go forward or backward. We could not do anything. It got rough."

Abood caught a piece of shrapnel in his body. Although he got a medical discharge later because

of the wound, he was not permitted to leave Easy Red that day.

"The situation on the beach was so bad that unless a medic was hit hard, he had to stay," he said.

Abood was near a gasoline tank punctured by an 88 shell. Explod-

ing fuel killed men all around him and set casualties on fire.

"I think the Lord put a shield around me," Abood said.

Abood, a petty officer, was in charge of eight men. Three of them died that day.

The Allied Air Force began dropping deadly loads of explosives behind the German lines, and the infantry came about noon.

Compared to the fury of the day Easy Red was a quiet that night. The Navy medic spent a sleepless night in a foxhole.

"The next day I was all shook up," he said. "I learned that one of my best friends had been killed."

Abood went to a hospital in France and in February of 1945 received a medical discharge.

Later he was awarded France's Croix de Guerre.

June 6 is etched in Abood's memory.

"That day of every year I say a prayer for those who didn't come back," he said. "I think everybody should."

Seven Oil Wells Are Found Illegal

AUSTIN (AP)—Four crews made more directional surveys today in the state's massive investigation of oil drilling piracy in the East Texas Field.

Atty. Gen. Will Wilson said the surveys already have turned up seven wells drilled to siphon oil from adjoining leases.

Roy Payne, a Texas Railroad Commission employee in Kilgore, said one of the wells slanted 3,286 feet from perpendicular. He reported it angled 56 degrees, using 5,100 feet of pipe in a well bottom 3,500 feet below the surface of the ground.

Wilson and Payne did not identify any of the deviated wells or leases on which they were drilled.

COLLEGE MASTER
VI 6-4988

Come on Over, the Water Is Fine

Pretty Miss Sondra Covey, a co-ed from Sam Houston State, basks in the sun at the outdoor swimming pool. Miss Covey is a sophomore living in College Station and attending summer school between dips in the pool. (Photo by Ronnie Fann)

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student to work on weekends only as dairy hand. Contact E. L. Hester, TA 2-0350 after 6:30 p. m. 12313

SPECIAL NOTICE

SUL ROSS LODGE, NO. 1800, AF&AM. Stated meeting June 14 at 7 p. m. Election of officers. All members are urged to attend. Truman Jones, WM Joe Woolket, Sec. 12312

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Applications for degrees are now being accepted in the Registrar's Office from all students who expect to graduate at the end of the current summer session (August). Students who are expecting to complete the requirements for either a baccalaureate or advanced degree during the first term should call by the Office of the Registrar no later than June 15, 1962 and file formal application for their degree. Graduate students must file applications in both the Registrar's Office and the Graduate Dean's Office.
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