

Grades 9-12

Navy Heroes of Normandy

On June 6, 1944, more than 52,000 American sailors on board thousands of ships arrived off a quiet stretch of coast in Normandy, France. Operation Neptune-Overlord was the largest amphibious and landing assault operation in the history of war. On this historic day, the U. S. Navy would prove critical to the success of the Allied invasion of Western Europe. NAVY HEROES OF NORMANDY spotlights a dedicated group of Navy veterans who set out to ensure that the crucial role they played on that day would never be forgotten.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What was the crucial role that these Navy heroes played?
- Explain Operation Neptune – Overload. Why was this so important?
- Using evidence from the text, explain why.
- What was the author's purpose? Identify specific details/passages in the text that focus on the author's purpose.

Question Box 2

- How would you define a hero?
- What were some of my most powerful learning moments in the program and what made them so?
- How much did you know about the subject before watching this episode? Explain.
- How do you feel about this program?
- If you were to retitle this episode, what would you call it?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- The American Allies forces were responsible for two sections of beach whose coastline totaled 9 miles. If 52,000 soldiers arrived on the beach, how many men per mile? If this is just the American response, what would be the German response?
- The beach was divided into 5 sections. If we assume they were divided equally, knowing the Germans planted 4 million landmines on the beach whose shoreline was

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50 miles, how many land mines would there be per mile of shore? What implications does this have for the Allied forces? What were the odds that an American would step on a landmine?

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- There are heroes of every race, color, creed, sex and nationality in every War. The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest Military Honor that a member of the armed services can receive. Research some Medal of Honor winners during WWII and some Medal of Honor Winners in our current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Tell the story of one hero. Why did you choose to tell this person's story?

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Did this episode evoke any feelings? If so what were they and why do you think you felt that way?
- Do you know anyone who has served in the military? If so, who?
- Would or are you considering a career in the military? Why or why not?
- Research careers in the military and develop a list of pros and cons.
- Were there more pros than cons or vice versa?
- Would any of the information you learned change your answer to number 3? Why or why not?