

Dwight Eisenhower's D-Day Correspondence

Read this story from NASA about trying to predict the D-Day Weather

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/145143/forecasting-d-day>

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.



Dwight D. Eisenhower

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Cherbourg - Havre area
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~~I have withdrawn~~
the troops. ~~have been~~
~~withdrawn.~~ This particular
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was based upon the best
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the troops, the air and the
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bravery and devotion to duty
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or fault attaches to the attempt
it is mine alone.

July 5

"Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops," Eisenhower wrote. "My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone."

1. The 1st letter is Dwight Eisenhower's message to Allied troops before the D-Day invasion. In your opinion, what is the purpose of the letter?
2. In your opinion, is Eisenhower confident or worried about D-Day?
3. Give two examples from the letter to support your answer for question 2.
4. Read the article linked at the top of the 1st page. Why was predicting the correct weather so important to the Allies on D-Day?
5. The second letter was written by Eisenhower in case the D-Day landings failed. Why do you think he crossed out "This particular operation" and wrote "My decision to attack" instead?
6. At the end of the letter, why do you think Eisenhower drew a line under "mine alone."