

Every time we moved and passed the USS Ancon, we had to stand in the middle of the deck at attention and salute. The seaman on guard would always return our salute. Of course, while we were standing there saluting, we were calling them every name in the unpublished book. It was nice that they couldn't hear us though.

We left Portland on the fourth of June at around 3:00 p.m. for France. Before we left, we all received a letter from General Eisenhower, wishing us luck.

Howard went on to participate in the Normandy invasion. This article is an excerpt from his own story, "An Amphibious Man", edited by his daughter Jane Williams Butler. Howard and Jane both attended the LCT Reunion in New Orleans this year.



**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*



U.S. Naval Headquarters in Dartmouth, England. Photo courtesy of the National Archives.