D-Day Discovery- Let's bring History alive (1)





D-Day Discovery- Let's bring History alive (3)

Documentary films proposed for this pedagogical program about Omaha beach:



« Big Red Omaha »:

Screenplay by Jacques & Rodolphe Rutman, directed by Rodolphe Rutman, co-director Jacques Rutman. Broadcast on France 2, France 5, and ZDFin Germany.

Through testimonies of thirteen veterans of the "Big Red One", the 1st American Infantry Division, the documentary film recounts the terrible events experienced by these assault troops on Omaha beach, June 6, 1944.



« Destins Croisés » (Crossed paths of destiny) :

Written & directed by Rodolphe Rutman. Broadcast on Odyssée and local Normandy channel Citizen Télévision.

This documentary film tells the story of two soldiers, one American and one German, who found themselves face to face, on opposite sides of the Omaha beach dunes, on the morning of June 6, 1944, for their first day of fighting.

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School groups taking part in the program will be able to choose the documentary film best suited to the needs of their students, according to their age and the expectations of their teachers.

D-Day Discovery- Let's bring History alive (4)

The « REMEMBER » association, its aims and projects:

« REMEMBER »:

The association, founded in 2024 by **Thibault de Fouchier** and **Rodolphe Rutman**, is based in Normandy, in Hérouville-Saint-Clair, near Caen.

Its mission is to promote a better understanding of history for new generations.

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(Photo: Sunset at Omaha beach)

The historical period chosen as the starting point for this educational activity is the Second World War, and more specifically the 1944 Battle of Normandy. The methods chosen to engage secondary school and university students in learning more about this important period of history, offers young people a threefold experience:

- 1/ <u>Discovering the subject through images</u>: with the screening of a documentary film featuring archival footage, personal accounts and contributions from historians.
- 2/ <u>A deeper understanding of the subject through discussion</u>: with the opportunity to take part in a Q&A session with the film's director, or one of the historians who contributed to the documentary.
- 3/ A confrontation with reality: a guided visit with the film's director to historical sites featured in the documentary.

This inaugural module, currently on offer to schools, concentrates on the landing of American troops on Omaha beach.

It was successfully tested with more than 750 students from high schools in the Caen region and from Hérouville-Saint-Clair middle schools, during 4 days at the end of May 2024.

A class of 4th graders from the "Le-Castillon" college in Les Pieux, near Flamanville in Cotentin, was the first to take part in a visit to Omaha beach and the Normandy American cemetery at Colleville-sur-mer.

The association is currently working on developing these modules for German, English and other european students.

The feedback from schools that have already experienced "D-Day Discovery" shows that the program has been a resounding success, for teachers, supervisors and students alike.

This immersive and comprehensive experience enables young people to fully understand the tragic events of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, but also inspires them to preserve and pass on the memory of these historic events for future generations.