

The Ultimate Sacrifice - WWII

Historical Writing

- **Historical Writing** = relating past events to the present.
- Use examples of what makes the event interesting today.
- Look at the event from the point of view of that era.
- Think of yourself as the historian; what do others need to know?

A) In the country of Belgium during the winter of 1944, a major battle occurred called the **Battle of the Bulge**. The German army launched a surprise attack, surrounding the U.S. Army in Bastogne. When the German army told the Americans to surrender, a determined General McAuliffe replied: “NUTS!” After a month of battle 19,000 Americans were killed with 47,000 wounded, but the defense was successful and helped win the battle. It was the largest and bloodiest American battle in WWII.



Battle of the Bulge
Belgium (1945)



Bataan Death March
Philippines (1945)

B) Although Japan is a good friend of America today, during WWII its military committed great atrocities against Asian countries and American troops. The **Bataan Death March** was a 60-mile forced prisoner march. Japanese captors starved, tortured, mutilated, and killed American and Filipino prisoners along the journey. It is estimated 10,000 of the 80,000 prisoners did not survive the march.



D-Day invasion
Normandy, France (1944)

C) On June 6, 1944 **D-Day** became the turning point of WWII for America and its allies, when 160,000 troops crossed into Normandy, France. The cost of the invasion was high with 4,414 Americans killed in one day. The first wave of Americans were told to carry extra ammunition, so when they were hit other soldiers could carry the supplies forward. A special cemetery was created for the soldiers near the invasion site.



D-Day cemetery
Normandy, France

A lot can be said about America's leadership during WWII. Americans helped stop vicious leaders and their terrible crimes against innocent people. They defeated the enemies of Japan and Germany, and then remarkably helped them rebuild the correct way, with peace and freedom.

Essay #1: What impresses you most about these WWII soldiers? (12-16 sentences)

Essay #2: Many soldiers volunteered to go to war. What do you think made these Americans brave enough to face such danger? (10-14 sentences)

Essay #3: How should Americans honor and respect their veterans? (10-14 sentences)

Essay #4: What is the meaning of Veterans and Memorial Day for you? (10-14 sentences)