

SAVING A CONTINENT (I)

I was 24 years old on June 6, 1944. We **were sent on** one of the **most** dangerous missions that day. We **had been training** for it since April. After **landing** on the beach, we **were supposed to** climb the high cliffs and destroy the German cannons **that we knew were** up there. The guns were a danger **to** our soldiers who **were landing** at the beaches. The guns **had to be destroyed early on so that** they would do **as little damage as possible**.

There were 22 people in my group. We **were under fire** the **whole** way to the beach. I **was the first one to** step out of the boat. **While** I **was getting off**, I **was shot in** the side, but the bullet didn't **hit** any **joints** so I **was able to** keep going. When **you're** a leader, you need to **make sure that** everything **gets done**. **As long as** you can **stand up**, you **keep going**.

After **getting shot**, I stepped **off** the boat and I didn't think the water **would be** too deep but I **stepped** into a hole so the other guys had to **pull me up** before we **launched** our **attack**. We **fired ropes** with hooks on the cliffs, and we **began climbing** the ropes.