

## A Great Crusade General Eisenhower's Order of the Day

One important primary source that historians examine is pieces that were written or spoken. Often these documents can give us a look into the mentality of whoever the writer was. Letters written by soldiers tell us more about the conditions they were in and what they were thinking about. Generals also wrote down what they were thinking. In this case, General Eisenhower prepared the Order of the Day – a motivational letter meant to inspire the troops who were a part of Operation Overlord as they moved across the English Channel to their respective beaches.

**Objective:** By reading the *Order of the Day* and answering a few questions, students will learn about what type of motivation Eisenhower was using to inspire the troops who did not know what was waiting for them across the English Channel. After answering the questions, students will write their own Order of the Day to motivate themselves and their classmates.

**Directions:**

1. Pass out the Order of the Day. Have students read it out loud, listen to an audio recording of Eisenhower reading the D-Day Invasion Order (which can be found at this web-site: <http://www.army.mil/d-day/message.html>), or read it to themselves.
2. Pass out the worksheet questions for students to complete.
3. Hold a short discussion about the importance of language and motivation. Consider why Eisenhower chose to use particular words when writing his Order of the Day.
4. Assign students the task of writing their own *Order of the Day* for the rest of the student body. The style of the Order should be motivational, while the content can be anything from an upcoming sporting event or standardized test, to a call for more pride around the school for some beautification project. If you choose, Orders can also be specific goals for your classroom.
5. Students can volunteer to read their Orders to the class. Another option is to hang to Orders up around the classroom.

**Assessment:** Components for assessment include the question worksheet and the student-written Order.

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*

\*Document from the National Archives - <http://www.archives.gov/global-pages/larger-image.html?i=/historical-docs/doc-content/images/ww2-eisenhower-d-day-order-1.jpg&c=/historical-docs/doc-content/images/ww2-eisenhower-d-day-order.caption.html>

**A Great Crusade**  
**Answering Questions about General Eisenhower's *Order of the Day***

1. Who is Eisenhower addressing in his *Order of the Day*?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What phrases does Eisenhower use to convey the idea of teamwork?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In a motivational speech, why would Eisenhower tell the men that their task will not be easy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Who does Eisenhower give credit to when saying that Germany has been weakened?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What can you learn about the D-Day invasion and WWII through this speech?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What can you learn about Eisenhower's leadership style through this speech?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What, if anything, would you have added or changed about Eisenhower's speech?