

THE SECRETS OF D-DAY

THE NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH PROJECT

ONLY A VERY FEW MEN SAW THE NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH BEFORE D-DAY AND AFTER THE WAR, IT DISAPPEARED FROM HISTORY

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YOU CAN VIEW THE DIGITAL VERSION OF THE ENTIRE BOOK AT THE LINK SHOWN BELOW.

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<http://issuu.com/duckwoodmedia/docs/neptunemonograph?e=34752581/64799449>

The Neptune Monograph, the definitive briefing book issued to senior American officers in preparation for the D-Day landings, with the famous two-sheet maps of Omaha and Utah Beaches. In the lead-up to Operation Neptune, better known as the D-Day landings on the coast of Normandy, a flood of reports, maps, and coastal profiles were prepared for the Allied forces. Among the most comprehensive and detailed of these was the *Neptune Monograph*, which summarized Allied intelligence, with particular emphasis on the American sector including Omaha and Utah Beaches. Containing information of the highest sensitivity, it bore the distinctive "BIGOT" stamp, the highest level of military security classification, and it was printed and distributed in small numbers.

"An attempt was made to include in one convenient volume, in graphic form as far as practicable, a compendium of the intelligence required by ships and craft.... The Monograph was distributed to forces, groups, ships, and craft down to LCT's. Intelligence in the Monograph was kept up to date by the dissemination of supplementary intelligence to be inserted in the volume. This included corrections to material previously issued and new intelligence based on photographic interpretations and revisions and additions to the plans for the operation." (Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, "Memorandum: Report of NORMANDY INVASION," Washington, Sept. 15, 1944. Accessed online.)

The *Monograph* was issued under the authority of Rear Admiral Alan G. Kirk, Commander of Task Force 122, the huge fleet of landing craft and supporting vessels that would deliver American forces to the beach. It is impossible to overstate the importance of Kirk's role in *Operation Neptune*: The planning, preparation for and execution of the actual amphibious landings at Omaha and Utah Beaches were his direct responsibility.

DESCRIPTION

The *Neptune Monograph* reflects the collected intelligence available to American planners as of April 21, 1944.

It is a treasure trove, combining strategic observations with tactical information, illustrated with a wealth of maps, charts, diagrams, and photographs. The volume is divided into the following sections:

Section I: Weather, Sea and Surf (pages 7-12)

Section II: Tides, Currents, and Astronomical Data (pages 13-25)

Section III: Terrain and Coast (pages 26-34)

Section IV: Beaches (pages 35-42)

Section V: Enemy Order of Battle and Capabilities (pages 43-50)

Section VI: Enemy Defenses and Installations (pages 51-68)

Section VII: Small Ports in Neptune Area (pages 69-84)

Section VIII: France Under German Control (pages 85-88)

Folios: Shoreline Sketches, Charts, Maps, Etc. (A - M)

Folio A: Shoreline Sketch - Omaha Beach - East (Colleville-sur-Mer).

Folio B: Shoreline Sketch - Omaha Beach - West (Vierville-sur-Mer).

Folio C: Shoreline Sketch - Utah Beach - South (La Madeleine).

Folio D: Shoreline Sketch - Utah Beach - North (Ravenoville).

Folio E: Landing Craft Profiles - Omaha Beach.

Folio F: Landing Craft Profiles - Utah Beach.

Folio G: Vertical Mosaic - Omaha Beach.

Folio H: Vertical Mosaic - Utah Beach.

Folio I: Profiles of Lighter German Warships.

Folio J: Disposition of Known German Forces in France and Low Countries.

Folio K: Disposition of German Troops on Cherbourg Peninsula.

Folio L: Estimated Movement of Enemy Reserves.

Folio M: Coastal Sectors.

For map collectors and collections, the maps of Omaha and Utah Beaches are of particular interest. Below the title of each map a brief note hints at the complex, multi-layered information-gathering effort required to produce them: "Map from GSGS 4490, sheets 79 & 80 and air photo examination." Thus, they were the product of a multilayered effort: Starting with existing base maps and hydrographic data, largely supplied by the British Hydrographic Office, military cartographers, and artists added data from aerial reconnaissance surveys by Allied warplanes, including extraordinarily dangerous low-level overflights. To these was added information from a host of other sources, including beach reconnaissance by Allied commandos ("frogmen") and reports from French Resistance fighters.

The *Neptune Monograph* is simply bound with three wire rings, to facilitate the addition and/or replacement of material as new intelligence became available, plans were revised, and so on. Hence even its physical construction hints at what must have been an extremely fluid situation in the run-up to the invasion.

THE BIGOT CLASSIFICATION

The cover and many of the Folios bear prominently the unusual label, "TOP SECRET - BIGOT." Introduced during the Second World War, ***BIGOT was the highest-level military security classification, above Top Secret.*** Some sources suggest that it was an acronym for ***"British Invasion of German Occupied Territory;"*** others, that it was a "backronym" for "To Gib," the code stamped on the papers of officers headed to Gibraltar in advance of the 1942 North Africa invasion.

Whatever the origins of the term, extraordinary efforts were made to protect BIGOT-level material. When for example a practice landing ("Operation Tiger") on the Devon coast was ambushed by U-boats, Eisenhower himself ordered the recovery of the bodies of the ten known victims with BIGOT clearance.

This was necessary to prove that they had not been captured alive, as their capture would have compromised the invasion plans and necessitated its cancellation.

“But nothing was more secret—or more vital to Operation Neptune—than the mosaic of Allied intelligence reports that cartographers and artists transformed into the multihued and multilayered BIGOT maps.” (Thomas B. Allen, “Untold Stories of D-Day,” *National Geographic Magazine*, June 2002, vol. 201, no. 6, p. 15)

In all, a rare and richly informative artifact from one of the most significant, dramatic, and terrifying events in American military history.

HEAR EISENHOWER SPEECH AS OPERATION “OVERLORD” BEGINS

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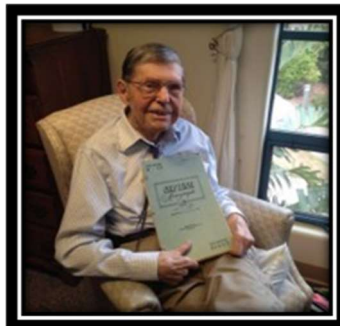
LET'S GO!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRdseieITDk>



**ONE PROUD OWNER OF AN “ACTUAL/ORIGINAL COPY OF THE NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH BOOKLET”
AND PARTICIPANT IN PREPARING THE INVASION PLANS**

SEE HIS ORIGINAL COPY OF THE INVASION PLANS AT THE END OF THE ARTICLE



John C. Crowell at 97 years old with the Neptune Monograph

He was a world-renowned geologist and professor emeritus at the University of California Santa Barbara. During World War II, with two other officers, he forecast surf conditions for the Allied Invasion of Normandy.

After graduating from the University of Texas with a degree in geology in 1939, Crowell undertook graduate work at UCLA. While studying the geology of a part of the San Joaquin Valley, he was offered employment as a geologist with Shell Oil Company and would have followed that career path had not World War II military service serendipitously intervened.

The U.S. Army put him into intensive training as an oceanographic meteorologist with several of the world's leading meteorologists and oceanographers. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 1943. Crowell became a member of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's Operation Overload weather forecasting team that made the critical forecasts of sea, swell, and surf for the June 6, 1944, Normandy Invasion which earned Crowell the Bronze Star. Later in the war he was based in Ceylon preparing for the invasion of Burma and led a US Army convoy across the Ledo-Burma Road from India into China. He was working on the planned invasion of Japan at Manila, Philippines when the war ended.

Several years ago he wrote a book about his wartime experiences called *Surf Forecasting for Invasions during World War II*.

He passed away on May 13th, 2015, an hour after his 98th birthday. He lived a remarkable life and spent his last 25 years in Montecito, California near Santa Barbara. He was a world-renowned geologist and professor emeritus at the University of California Santa Barbara.

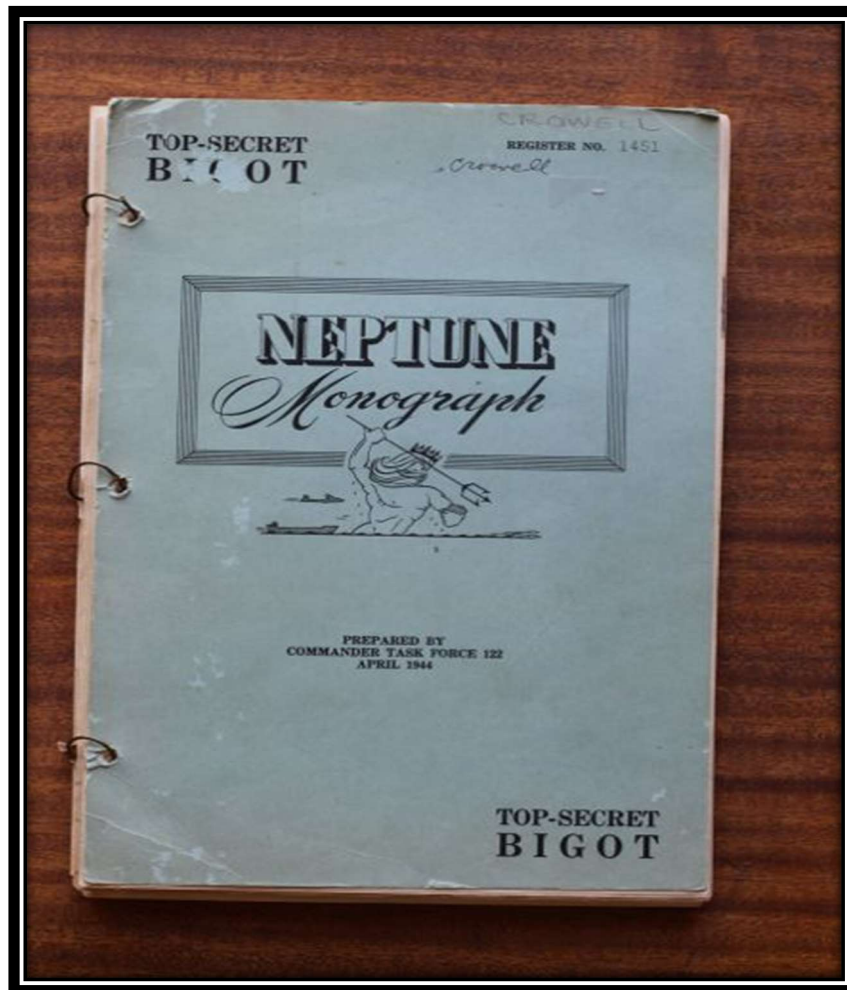
Below are some comments/information about his life furnished by his son after his father's death:

"My father was mostly known as a famous geologist* but he was very proud of his service in World War II. As an officer during the war, he was trained as an oceanographic meteorologist in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was awarded the bronze star for his work in forecasting the surf conditions during the Normandy D-Day invasion. One of his prize possessions is his original copy of the top secret plans for the D-Day invasion known to historians as the Neptune Monograph."

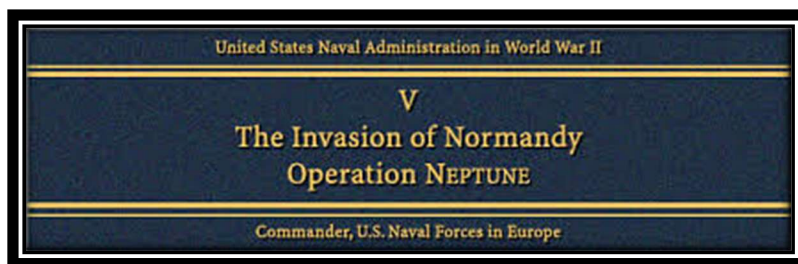
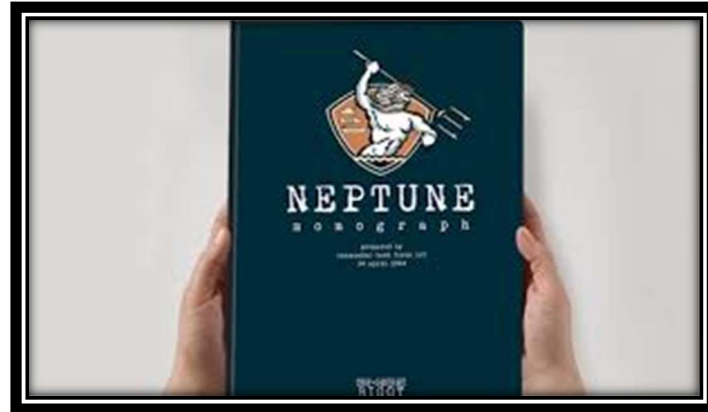
"My father was former chairman of the geology department at UCLA and UCSB, member U.S. National Academy of Sciences, fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Science, Professor Emeritus UCSB, Penrose medal, Fulbright Award, Guggenheim Scholarship, etc".

AN ORIGINAL COPY OF THE ACTUAL NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH

This copy was issued to US Army Second Lieutenant John C. Crowell, 21st Weather Squadron (story above). Look closely in the top right corner of the below picture and you can see the words Control # 1451 with his name on the cover.



NOW PUBLISHED INTO A HARD COPY BOOK



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PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN THOUGH THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM WEBSITES & OTHER SOURCES THAT APPEAR TO BE AUTHENTIC, I CAN NOT ENSURE THAT ALL THE DATA IN THIS ARTICLE IS ACCURATE AND CORRECT.