

CHART OF THE MONTH

JUNE 2019

My wife and I took "An Iconic Journey of Remembrance" aboard the all-new Seabourn Ovation to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day earlier this month. The trip was hosted by the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

We traveled to the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and England. We followed the "Atlantic Wall" from Amsterdam to Rotterdam, Zeebrugge, Dunkirk, Calais, Le Havre, Honfleur, and Cherbourg. We crossed the English Channel and disembarked in Dover. Our post-cruise extension to London took us to Churchill's family home in Chartwell, the Churchill War Rooms, the Imperial War Museum, and St. Paul's Cathedral.

At the front end of our journey, we walked through the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, where she and her family hid from the Nazis for more than two years before being deported to death camps in August 1944. Only her father Otto survived the war. Anne would have turned 90 years old on Wednesday, June 12. We also visited the Rijksmuseum, home of the world's largest collection of Rembrandts, including [The Night Watch](#), his signature masterpiece and one of the most famous paintings of all time. The museum had three Van Goghs, including [a self-portrait as a fashionably dressed Parisian](#).

We then embarked on the Ovation, which included a dozen World War II veterans among the 600 passengers. We met and had the distinct honor of spending the day befriending Guy Whidden, a paratrooper from the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. Mr. Whidden, who will turn 96 next week, was in the first wave of paratroopers known as the Screaming Eagles. He landed behind enemy lines in the town of Sainte-Mère-Église (between Utah and Omaha Beaches) at 1:15 a.m. or five hours before the amphibious landings. Guy was severely wounded and three of his best friends were killed in a mortar attack during Operation Market Garden in Holland in September 1944. He was awarded the Purple Heart and is a true American hero.

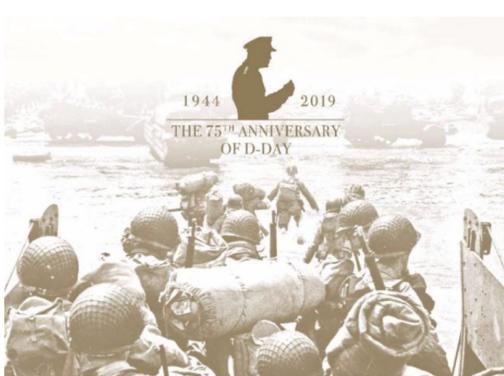
The actor James Madio (second row, far right), who portrayed Frank Perconte, one of the first soldiers to be assigned to the Easy Company, in the miniseries *Band of Brothers*, was also on board with us. He and several World War II historians gave nightly lectures on the ship. In addition, we were entertained by the Victory Belles, a trio performing the music of the 1940s.

On Thursday, June 6, we received a police escort from our ship to the American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy to witness first hand the 75th Anniversary of D-Day ceremony. Presidents Emmanuel Macron and Donald Trump delivered powerful speeches at the edge of Omaha Beach, praising the soldiers, sailors, and airmen, including the survivors and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Macron awarded five American veterans, including Vincent Hynes, with the Legion of Honor, France's highest award. As a diver in the Navy, his primary job was to recover the victims in the water. I had the pleasure to personally thank Mr. Hynes and shake his hand (fifth row).

At the conclusion of the festivities, we were treated to several flyovers performed by World War II-era planes and modern aircraft sporting red, white and blue smoke. We then solemnly strolled through the cemetery (containing 9,388 burials), visiting the headstones of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (a Medal of Honor recipient) and two of the Niland brothers (Preston and Robert), whose story inspired Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*.

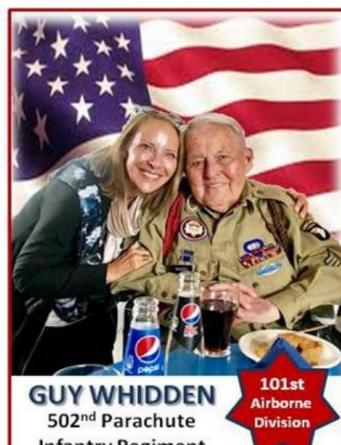
Lastly, we participated in a couple of cultural excursions, namely Monet's Garden in Giverny and Mont Saint-Michel on the southwest coast of Normandy. The former is comprised of a colorful flower garden in front of Monet's house and a Japanese-inspired water garden featuring the famous green bridges, water lilies, weeping willows, and bamboo wood. Mont Saint-Michel, which is perched on a rocky islet, was founded in 966 as a Benedictine abbey dedicated to the Archangel Michel. It is considered one of the most important sites of medieval Christian civilization.

Our trip, which was educational, sentimental, and memorable, was made all the more enjoyable by the fact that the three major stock market indexes all increased more than 4% last week. A special time indeed!



WW II Veteran
Burton "Burt" Lewis

75th Anniversary Of D Day



GUY WHIDDEN
502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment

101st Airborne Division

