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Katie Collman: Another Victim of the War on Drugs

By Paul Zimmerman

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Katie Collman, a ten year old Crothersville, IN girl was murdered because she allegedly witnessed drug activity (<http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=2908865&nav=9TahW2m6>). If not for the continuing War on Drugs, Katie Collman would be alive today.

While the killer of Katie Collman must bear responsibility for his monstrous actions, when will those who continue the War on Drugs accept any responsibility for the consequences of their actions?

During Prohibition if someone stumbled upon a still or a bootlegger's warehouse, they'd be lucky to escape with their lives. Out of desperation some people drank wood alcohol and went blind or died. Organized crime received a shot in the arm from the revenues made possible by Prohibition. All the deaths and mayhem, crime and corruption during Prohibition were predictable and preventable, and in fact ended with Prohibition. Why is that concept so difficult to understand when the drug in question is not alcohol, but some other substance?

The danger of volatile meth labs run by people with little or no lab skills and jerry-rigged apparatus would disappear with the re-legalization of drugs. Just as still explosions and contaminated booze became a thing of the past with the end of Prohibition, so to would meth labs, killings to hide drug use or to protect illicit drug dealings.

The best outcome of this tragedy would be for the killer(s) of Katie Collman to pay for this heinous act and end the War on Drugs that made this horrible act possible.

Paul was the Libertarian candidate for Congress, 2nd District of Indiana, in 1996.

What If TV News Had Covered D-Day?

By Rusty Cawley

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Imagine: What if today's American TV news had been there to cover D-Day, June 6, 1944?

"Good morning, this is Peter Jennings at ABC News in Washington with this special report. The War Department is confirming this morning that Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy, is now in motion. Unfortunately, the news from the battleground is grim for American forces. Despite attacking with the largest military force in history, the Allies appear to have lost this battle before it has begun. We start our coverage with reporter Terry Moran, who is embedded with U.S. Army forces at a stretch of Normandy that the War Department has designated 'Omaha Beach.'"

Terry Moran: "Peter, here at Omaha Beach, everything that could have gone wrong has gone wrong. The Allies sent 29 amphibious support vehicles to this site. Of those, 27 have sunk. We are pinned down by German gunfire. In addition, we now know the entire beach is heavily mined along its six-mile expanse. Observers tell us they expect that more than 2,400 Allied soldiers will die in the next few hours. We now go to reporter Martha Raddatz, who is embedded with forces at Utah Beach."

Martha Raddatz: "News is no better for the Allies here at Utah Beach. A navigational error placed Allied forces several miles to the north of their intended landing site. As a result, the Allies are running into less resistance than expected, but they are also giving the Germans an opportunity to strengthen their defenses before the attack is joined. It appears that the Allies have committed the crucial mistake that will cost them the war. Now we shift to Juno Beach and reporter Dan Harris."

Dan Harris: "Here at Juno Beach, the Allies are having to deal more with reefs and shoals than with bullets and grenades. The landing crafts arrived too late to avoid these natural barriers. As a result, an estimated 30 percent of the crafts have been crushed before they could reach the shoreline. The Allies likely will suffer 1,200 dead on this beach alone as Operation Overlord stumbles onward. Back to you, Peter Jennings."

Peter Jennings: "We now are receiving reports from the small French village of St. Mere Eglise, where we understand Allied paratroopers began to drop last night. The news from there is dire. Scores of U.S. paratroopers have accidentally landed in the town square and are being slaughtered by German soldiers before the Americans can free themselves from their parachutes. Now we go to Katie Couric for a preview of this morning's 'Today Show.' I'm not sure why we're going to Katie Couric, since she

works for NBC, but such is the fog of war. Katie?"

Katie Couric: "Thank you, Peter. This morning on `Today' we will ask the question that is on every American's mind: Is Operation Overlord the first Allied failure against Adolf Hitler? For that answer, we turn to NBC's chief military analyst, Ret. Gen. Barry McCaffrey. What is your take, General?"

Gen. Barry McCaffrey: "Paratroopers are missing their targets. Landing craft are arriving late. And now we are getting estimates that as many as 14,000 French civilians will die in this brutal, fruitless attack upon the European continent. What can I say? If Operation Overlord was to have any chance at all

against these formidable German defenses, everything had to go perfectly. Instead, everything has gone haywire. The Roosevelt Administration must accept that this mission has failed, that we cannot possibly mount another operation of this magnitude, and that we must consider suing for peace with Hitler. This morning, Katie, I truly fear for America."

Katie Couric: "Speaking of fear, don't miss tonight's breathtaking episode of `Fear Factor'. Share the thrills as that `Yankee Doodle Dandy' James Cagney attempts to tap dance blindfolded atop a 70-foot flagpole while Hollywood starlet Tallulah Bankhead confronts her loathing of clothing. That's all tonight. ..."

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Rusty Cawley is a 20-year veteran journalist who serves as a news strategist for private enterprises in the United States. To comment on this article, write him at rustycawley@prrainmaker.com or visit his Web site at www.rustycawley.com.



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