



EPILOGUE

BEACHES OF BELMONT is a fresh look at an old subject; only here, the story is woven around an uncannily eerie, yet true parallel between Normandy's D-Day invasion and the Triple Crown of 1944.

As "equine youth" were prepared for racing's most coveted Trophy, an unsuspecting American youth were trained for a conquest of their own; a Nazi-free Europe. In the first week of June, 1944, horses and human counterparts would face the ultimate test.

During both World War eras, horse racing was more popular than today. Thus, few will likely have intimate knowledge of the Triple Crown, let alone be familiar with historical facts, names of horses and jockeys, or know of racing events now six decades old.

For your reference, the first leg is the Kentucky Derby; a classic 1 ¼ mile challenge for young three-year-olds, and always run the first Saturday in May. The second leg is the Preakness Stakes, a sixteenth-mile shorter at Maryland's Pimlico. During WWII, it was run a week after the Derby versus two weeks today.

The final leg is the Belmont Stakes, and hence the title— a grueling 1 ½ mile test of strategy, pace, fitness, stamina, soundness, and heart run at New York's Belmont Park the first weekend in June.

While the characters are fictional, the story reflects true military events of World War II— such that in sync with historically accurate references to the 1944 Triple Crown, ie: names of horses, jockeys, past racing events, orders of finish, etc., the story centers on an interesting theme between the two events.

Thinking back, envision a nation energized in rare anticipation of a back-to-back Triple Crown resting squarely on the shoulders of Pensive. At the same time, a more intense anxiety has enveloped Battalions of America's youth. Four thousand miles separated entrants, yet when each starting gate sprung open at nearly the identical moment in history, while one set of trainees busted loose for fame and glory— the others were scrambling for their lives.