Primary Source Discussion Questions

1. What important qualities of leadership characterized Dwight Eisenhower?

2. What were some of the risks associated with the D-Day invasion?

3. Why did Eisenhower feel a sense of urgency about the early June target date for the invasion?

4. Based on the information in the narrative, how do we know that Eisenhower took his responsibilities as Supreme Commander seriously?

5. Explain Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith’s statement: “I never realized before the loneliness and isolation of a commander at a time when such a momentous decision has to be taken, with the full knowledge that failure or success rests on his judgment alone.”