



**Daniel Meudal World War 2 military vehicle enthusiast.**

Rob Now I'm talking with Daniel Meudal ...

Daniel Yes.

Rob ... who is part of an association here at ... Saint-Michel-en- Grève.

Daniel My association is MVCG: Military Vehicle Conservation Group.

Rob The beach is covered with ancient military vehicles. Are they all American?

Daniel Yeah, all vehicles we have are Americans. And each owner has his own vehicles, clothes, artefacts about Second World War and especially American. And we are here today because we celebrate the 75 anniversary of the liberation of Brittany. Our association started at Donville-les-Bains over Granville 26th of July and we follow the same road and ways used by the third army. It is why today we are here to commemorate the Anton operation with landing of 3 LST ... Landing ... no... LST I cannot remember exactly full of supply for Patton army with gas, ammunition, food, necessary supply and also to back wounded soldier in Great Britain to, to save their life.

Rob It was to liberate Brest I think that this movement was happening wasn't it?

Daniel Yeah for us we stop at Lesneven town. We have had a very big, beautiful and friendly ceremony. We haven't follow our way or tour to Brest because it was, er, have no time. Normally we, we have to set up our camp on the beach but today with the weather, it's a very stormy weather, very windy, it's impossible to set up safely our tents and our camp.

Rob Tell me what, what is the fascination for you with this historical event, w... why, why are you so interested in the American army?

Daniel No, you should be surprised. My passion is history. All history. And close: your language, British language. I love your language. And when I was a kid, twelve years old, I saw the movie The Longest Day. And I have been branded to see this movie. And for me it was impossible to be fascinated and to want to learn, to know exactly what's happen without speaking your language because it is a language of liberty. During two years long, Angleterre for French was Angleterre and London was the lighthouse of Europe, and all eyes were turn to London. Help come from London, liberty come from London. And I am fascinated because for many kids there were soldiers, yes, but those soldiers were citizen soldiers and were teenagers like today. And many of them lose their life to be free, for my grandparents and I. And to speak with you right now, without those, those kids I shouldn't, I don't stay here, right in my boots to talk with you, to explain why, but with my age, 62 years old, parents, grandparents, I know the cost of freedom. And there's a price of life. And it is why my fascination, it is not fascination, but it is a grateful for the duty, for what those soldiers made, and also the country, and I have a special thing to their mothers, the mothers of all those soldiers, because they saw their kids leave home, but they don't know if they back home safe. And many of them stay here in France, lying in a



coffin in different place. So we have a blood debt (ie debt) for United States, and for the people of America, and it is why I am here. And I am a re-enactor about this period.

Rob     Everybody knows about the landings on the beaches of                    Normandy, but this in Brittany, this Saint-Michel-en-Grève isn't so well known.

Daniel   No.

Rob     So part of the role today, perhaps, is to let people know about uh, about this particular operation?

Daniel   Yes. They help. They help people to know what's happen. For people around here maybe they know what's happen, and it is very important. But for the other, no, it is a spot of, uh, of history, but it is the same in centre of Brittany, in the centre of France, and in different place, and also the same for you, my interviewer, with Dynamo operation at Dunkirk. Because I know many people, simple people, with small boats, do their duty to collect soldiers on the beach of Dunkirk. It's for those ... for many, many million of family, it's a spot of life, but very important and so light.

Rob     Daniel Meudal, you're part of an association you told me to do with motor vehicles. Tell me a little about your association, where is it based in ...

Daniel   This association is based at Étables-sur-Mer, close St Brieuc that is the headquarter of our association. Many, many people of this                    association is MVCG Bretagne, and we have with us many friend come from Chartres town. The other one come from Granville and the other around all place of Brittany. It is friends always interesting about this     history and each people with their facilities, the owner of different type of vehicles, from the small one – very cheap – to the very heavy – very expensive - but with the same way and vision of our association. There is no difference between the owner of a bicycle from 1940 to the other one with a Sherman or a M 7 Priest?

Rob     Daniel Meudal, it's been a pleasure talking to you.

Daniel   It's a really pleasure for me.

Rob     Thanks very much for all the information.

Daniel   Okay. Thank you very much for you.