

## Hand-Carry That There Can!

*By Nancy Mann*

Wherewithal is the money or means for a particular purpose. Means can include braving the elements, ingenuity, man-power or struggle.

Despite the severe weather of wind and high seas, the Allies landed on Normandy's five beaches in June of 1944. PLUTO (not the planet in today's news) piped fuel from England in 3-inch flexible lead pipe; PLUTO stands for Pipe Line Under the Ocean. Thousands of vehicles were waiting for fuel. (A Humvee gets ten miles per gallon; landed tanks got one mile per gallon!)

When Americans later broke through the Siegfried line, General George S. Patton chased the amazed and retreating Germans; overhead Allied planes couldn't bring fuel to the pursuers. Some G.I.'s carried 5-gallon Jerry cans to empty into the tanks of armored vehicles. American will and wherewithal toted the precious fuel!

Later, Patton mentioned to the German ex-Chiefs of Staff: "We had wherewithal and we used your own Jerry cans to carry gas through the woods! How 'bout that?"

"Jerry" cans were a German invention – the name came from the British term for "Germans."

Please reflect on this wherewithal and will, and give thanks Americans do not have huge oil portraits of our counterpart in Normandy, Karl Gerd von Rundstedt in our homes – a name difficult for my child and other schoolchildren to pronounce.