

Close to ilber Ortaylı

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Professor Ortaylı, Director of the Topkapı Palace Museum, is widely recognized as an expert

on the history of the Ottoman Empire, and he truly is. With this profound knowledge, Ortaylı enlightens and informs the public through his television interviews, books, and articles in a daily newspaper.

However, the errors made by ilber Ortaylı in his article titled "Europe 65 years ago", which he wrote in the Sunday supplement of Milliyet newspaper on June 7, 2009, regarding the Normandy Landings, a turning point in World War II, are of a nature that would not be expected from a history expert like him.

For example, according to ilber Ortaylı, the landing started on June 5, 1944. However, the landing codenamed 'Operation Overlord', 'Operation Neptune' or 'D-Day'

(For some reason, Ortaylı did not mention the code names of the landing in his article) It started on June 6, 1944, because due to the bad weather conditions on June 5, the Allied Powers Commander Eisenhower postponed the landing, but on June 6, although the weather conditions had not changed much, he started the operation by saying "We go!" (Let's go!).

The article states, "The Normandy landings... were an operation involving American, British, and almost all exiled Polish forces." Here again, ilber Ortaylı has gravely injustice to the Canadians, because not only is there no information in historical sources about Polish troops participating in the landings on this scale, but all sources state that Canadians landed alongside the British on beaches codenamed Juno and Gold. In other words, it is the Canadians, not the Poles, who should be mentioned in this matter.

Another, though not crucial, error is ilber Ortaylı's addition of the nobility title "von" to the name of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, one of the commanders of the German Army. The famous Field Marshal's name is simply Erwin Rommel. The article overlooks Rommel's earlier significant achievement by stating, "He proved himself to be a truly powerful commander in North Africa." However, Rommel, the *Deutsches*

Before he became known as the commander of the Afrika Korps (Afrika Korps), he commanded the 7th Panzer Division during the German invasion of France in May 1940, employing tanks so successfully that he became known as one of the architects of the Blitzkrieg (a division later known as the 'Ghost Division'). As a result of these successes, the North Afrika Korps was formed, and Rommel was appointed its leader.

ilber Ortaylı's most significant error is his claim that Rommel was "destroyed"—that is, killed—as a result of a suspicious plane attack on the grounds that he was involved in the assassination attempt against Hitler. However, Rommel was not "destroyed" by an Allied plane attack; he was merely wounded. During his recovery, Hitler, taking into account his public reputation, offered Rommel the choice between suicide by cyanide or trial by the People's Court (and, of course, the eventual death penalty). To protect his family, he chose the former option and committed suicide by cyanide on October 4, 1944. This death was portrayed to the public by Nazi propaganda as the death of the famous field marshal as a result of his injuries. The true situation was revealed only after the war. ilber Ortaylı, based on the Nazis' wartime publications,