



The Normandy Coast and Landing Beaches

90 km of coastline, military details and pictures of the landing on D-day, then and now

Die Küste der Normandie und Landungsstrände

90 km Küste, militärische Details und Bilder der Landung am D-Day damals und heute

La Côte de Normandie et les Plages du Débarquement

90 kms de côtes, des détails militaires et des photos du débarquement hier et aujourd'hui



Jo Struyven



SWORD

WN 14 Ouistreham Sole (1600 metres from coastline)



Roger White Sector

OUISTREHAM





WN 10 Riva Bella ↓

WN 15 & 15 A St-Aubain d'Arquenay (3700 metres from coastline)

SWORD





OMAHA

WN 66 Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer Ruquet Ost



Easy Green Sector
Assault area

SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-MER





WN 67 Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer les Moulins (750 metres from coastline)

WN 69 Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer (1000 metres from coastline)

WN 68 Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer West

OMAHA



← Easy Green Sector Dog Red Sector →

Dog Red Sector
Assault area





UTAH

↓ Crisbecq Battery

↓ WN 14 A Hameau Sud-Les Gougins



Peter Sector
Assault area airborne
SAINT-MARCOUF





UTAH



Key moments and figures

Interbellum

28/06/1919	Treaty of Versailles: loss of 70,000 km ² (surface equal to Belgium & the Netherlands with half of the steel-industry representing 13% of the European territory of Germany,) loss of 6,500,000 inhabitants, condemned survivors to pay “reparations” (7,000 tons of gold) and loss of the colonies
13/07/1931	German Banks were closed for a few days: Germany goes bankrupt
30/01/1933	Adolf Hitler becomes Reich Chancellor of Germany
25/11/1936	Anti Comintern-Pact: anti communist treaty between Germany and Japan
06/11/1937	Italy (with Libya, Dodekanesos, Eritrea, Somaliland, Ethiopia and Albania as colonies) joins treaty
12/03/1938	Occupation of Austria
28/03/1938	Occupation of Sudetenland (Czechoslovakia)
10/04/1938	Anschluss of Austria after referendum
30/09/1938	Munich agreement: France and UK agree to the possession of Sudetenland, in exchange for peace guarantee. Creation of Reichsgau Niederösterreich
13/03/1939	Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia
20/03/1939	German ultimatum to Lithuania to give up Klaipėda Region before 22/03/1939
31/03/1939	Anglo-Polish military alliance
07/04/1939	Italian invasion of Albania
22/05/1939	Pact of Steel between Germany and Italy
23/08/1939	Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (non-aggression) signed between Germany and USSR: Poland to be divided between USSR and Germany, USSR could regain the control of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia

World War II

01/09/1939	Germany invades Poland
03/09/1939	Declaration of war by UK (with the Empire) and France (with Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia) against Germany
10/09/1939	Canada joins UK in war: beginning of the Battle of the Atlantic
09/04/1940	Germany attacks Denmark and Norway
09/04/1940	Capitulation of Denmark
10/05/1940	Germany attacks the Netherlands, Belgium & France
10/05/1940	UK occupies Iceland

15/05/1940	Capitulation of the Netherlands
26/05/1940	Dunkirk evacuation (until 04/06/1940)
28/05/1940	Capitulation of Belgium
10/06/1940	Declaration of war by France against Italy, start of North African Campaign
22/06/1940	Capitulation of France
10/07/1940	Capitulation of Norway
July/1940	America mobilizes
10/07/1940	Battle of England (until 31/10/1940). On 16/07/1940, Hitler orders the preparation of operation Sealion (amphibious and airborne assault). On 13/10/1940, Hitler postpones operation Sealion until spring 1941
27/09/1940	Tripartite pact between Germany, Italy and Japan. Later joining the Tripartite pact were the Kingdom of Hungary (10/1940), Slovak Republic (24/10/1940), Kingdom of Romania (23/11/1940), Kingdom of Bulgaria (01/03/1941). Yugoslavia and Croatia join the pact afterwards.
11/02/1941	Operation Sonnenblume starts with the German Africa Korps
09/04/1941	Treaty between USA and Denmark: USA protects Greenland
17/04/1941	Capitulation of Yugoslavia
27/04/1941	Capitulation of Greece
22/06/1941	Germany invades the USSR (operation Barbarossa)
14/08/1941	Atlantic Charter signed between USA and UK
08/09/1941	Siege of Leningrad
31/10/1941	USS Reuben is sunk by German U-boat
07/12/1941	Japan attack Pearl Harbor in Hawaii
07/12/1941	Declaration of war by US against Japan
11/12/1941	Germany declares war against USA
19/12/1941	Hitler nominates himself as commander in chief
22/12/1941	Arcadia Conference between Roosevelt & Churchill
Jan/1942	U-Boats threaten US coasts and attack US ships
26/01/1942	Friendly invasion: first American troops arrived in Belfast
07/06/1942	Victory at Midway: US navy defeats Japanese Navy
17/08/1942	First US heavy bomber raid on Germany
23/08/1942	Battle of Stalingrad.
24/10/1942	2 nd Battle of El Alamein in Egypt (until 11/11/1942)
08/11/1942	Operation Torch (invasion of North Africa) by US & UK
02/02/1943	Germany surrenders in Stalingrad
Mar/1943	Crisis in the Atlantic: allies suffer heavy losses to German U-boats

23/03/1943	Battle of El Guettar (until 03/04) opposing General Patton and General Rommel
06/04/1943	Battle of Wadi Akarit: withdrawal of Axis forces from Tunisia
May/1943	Black May: Allies sink 38 German U-boats
13/05/1943	Axis forces surrender in North Africa
June/1943	Operation Pointblank begins: bombing of German industry
05/07/1943	Battle of Kursk (until 23/08/1943)
10/07/1943	Invasion of Allies in Sicily
03/09/1943	Invasion of Allies in Continental Italy
08/09/1943	Proclamation of armistice with Italy by Marshal Badoglio
23/11/1943	US troops capture Tarawa
17/01/1944	Beginning of Battle of Monte Cassino (Rome) until 18/05/1944
27/01/1944	Liberation of Leningrad
04/06/1944	Liberation of Rome

Military preparations and political decisions for D-Day

19/08/1942	Operation Jubilee in Dieppe: there were +/- 45 amphibious operations after the Dunkirk evacuation of which Operation Jubilee was the biggest. It involved around 6,000 men (mostly Canadians) with landings on 6 beaches. 65% of the troops were killed, captured or went missing.
12/05/1943	Third Washington Conference (until 25/05/1943) between Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to launch a cross-Channel invasion within the coming year.
10/07/1943	Invasion of Sicily and later Continental Italy provided experience in amphibious warfare.
17/08/1943	Quebec Conference (until 24/08/1943): Operation Overlord, the landing would be in Normandy because the beaches were less heavily defended there than those of Pas de Calais and offered enough space to land a large number of landing craft vessels. The landing would take place in May 1944.
28/11/1943	Conference of Tehran: first meeting between Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin, promise made by UK and US to open a second battlefield in spring 1944 in Western Europe.
24/12/1943	Appointment of Eisenhower as supreme Allied Commander
Feb/1944	Big Week: destruction of over 350 enemy fighters.
April/1944	Troops amass for invasion (by April there were 1,400,000 Americans stationed in Britain).

Schlüsselmomente und Beteiligte

Interbellum

28/06/1919	Vertrag von Versailles: Verlust von 70.000 km ² (entspricht der Fläche Belgiens und der Niederlande, mit der Hälfte der Stahlindustrie und 13% des europäischen Territoriums Deutschlands), Verlust von 6.500.000 Einwohnern, zur Leistung von "Reparationszahlungen" verurteilt (7.000 Tonnen Gold) und Verlust der Kolonien.
13/07/1931	Deutsche Banken waren für einige Tage geschlossen: Deutschland war bankrott
30/01/1933	Adolf Hitler wird Reichskanzler von Deutschland
25/11/1936	Anti-Komintern-Pakt: Antikommunistischer Vertrag zwischen Deutschland und Japan
11/06/1937	Italien (mit Libyen, Dodekanesos, Eritrea, Somaliland, Äthiopien und Albanien als Kolonien) tritt dem Vertrag bei
12/03/1938	Besetzung von Österreich
28/03/1938	Besetzung des Sudetenlands (Tschechoslowakei)
10/04/1938	Anschluss Österreichs nach Volksabstimmung
30/09/1938	Münchener Abkommen: Frankreich und Großbritannien genehmigen die Übernahme des Sudetenlands gegen Friedensgarantie. Gründung des Reichsgaus Niederösterreich
13/03/1939	Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren
20/03/1939	Deutsches Ultimatum an Litauen, die Region Klaipėda vor dem 22/03/1939 aufzugeben
31/03/1939	Anglo-Polnisches Militärbündnis
07/04/1939	Italienische Invasion Albanien
22/05/1939	Stahlpakt zwischen Deutschland und Italien
23/08/1939	Molotov-Ribbentrop-Pakt (Nichtangriffspakt) zwischen Deutschland und der UdSSR: Polen wird zwischen der UdSSR und Deutschland aufgeteilt, die UdSSR könnte die Kontrolle über Litauen, Estland und Lettland wiedererlangen

Zweiter Weltkrieg

01/09/1939	Deutschland fällt in Polen ein
03/09/1939	Kriegserklärung des Vereinigten Königreichs (mit dem Reich) und Frankreichs (mit Marokko, Algerien, Tunesien) an Deutschland
10/09/1939	Kanada tritt Großbritannien im Krieg bei: Beginn der Schlacht um den Atlantik
09/04/1940	Deutschland greift Dänemark und Norwegen an
09/04/1940	Kapitulation Dänemarks
10/05/1940	Deutschland greift die Niederlande, Belgien und Frankreich an
10/05/1940	Großbritannien besetzt Island
15/05/1940	Kapitulation der Niederlande

26/05/1940	Evakuierung in Dünkirchen (bis 04/06/1940)
28/05/1940	Kapitulation Belgiens
10/06/1940	Kriegserklärung Frankreichs an Italien, Beginn der nordafrikanischen Kampagne
22/06/1940	Kapitulation Frankreichs
10/07/1940	Kapitulation Norwegens
Juli/1940	Amerika mobilisiert
10/07/1940	Schlacht um England (bis 31/10/1940). Am 16/07/1940 ordnete Hitler die Vorbereitung der Operation Sealion (Amphibien- und Luftangriff) an. Am 13/10/1940 verschiebt Hitler die Operation Sealion auf das Frühjahr 1941
27/09/1940	Dreierpakt zwischen Deutschland, Italien und Japan
10/10/1940	Späterer Beitritt zum Dreierpakt: Königreich Ungarn (10/10/1940), Slowakei (24/10/1940), Königreich Rumänien (23/11/1940), Königreich Bulgarien (01/03/1941) Jugoslawien und Kroatien schließen sich dem Pakt an
02/11/1941	Die Operation Sonnenblume beginnt mit dem deutschen Afrikakorps
09/04/1941	Vertrag zwischen den USA und Dänemark: Die USA können Grönland schützen
17/04/1941	Kapitulation Jugoslawiens
27/04/1941	Kapitulation Griechenlands
22/06/1941	Deutschland fällt in die UdSSR ein (Operation Barbarossa)
14/08/1941	Atlantik-Charta zwischen den USA und Großbritannien
08/09/1941	Belagerung von Leningrad
31/10/1941	USS Reuben wird von einem deutschen U-Boot versenkt
07/12/1941	Angriff von Japan auf Pearl Harbor in Hawaii
07/12/1941	Kriegserklärung der USA an Japan
11/12/1941	Deutschland erklärt den USA den Krieg
19/12/1941	Hitler ernennt sich selbst zum Oberbefehlshaber der Wehrmacht
22/12/1942	Arcadia-Konferenz zwischen Roosevelt und Churchill
Jan/1942	U-Boote bedrohen die US-Küsten und greifen US-Schiffe an
26/01/1942	Freundschaftliche Invasion: Erste amerikanische Truppen kommen in Belfast an
07/06/1942	Sieg auf Midway: US-Marine besiegt japanische Marine
17/08/1942	Erster schwerer Bombenangriff der USA auf Deutschland
23/08/1942	Schlacht von Stalingrad
24/10/1942	Zweite Schlacht von El Alamein in Ägypten (bis 11/11/1942)
08/11/1942	Operation Torch (Invasion Nordafrikas) durch die USA und Großbritannien
02/02/1943	Deutsche Kapitulation in Stalingrad
März/1943	Krise im Atlantik: Alliierte Verluste durch deutsche U-Boote
23/03/1943	Schlacht um El Guettar (bis 03/04): General Patton

06/04/1943	gegen General Rommel
Mai/1943	Schlacht um Wadi Akarit: Abzug der Achsenmächte aus Tunesien
13/05/1943	Black May: Die Alliierten versenken 38 deutsche U-Boote
Juni/1943	Kapitulation der Achsenmächte in Nordafrika
07/05/1943	Operation Pointblank beginnt: Bombenangriff auf die deutsche Industrie
10/07/1943	Schlacht bei Kursk (bis 23/08/1943)
03/09/1943	Landung der Alliierten in Sizilien
08/09/1943	Landung der Alliierten in Kontinentalitalien
23/11/1943	Proklamation des Waffenstillstands mit Italien durch Marschall Badoglio
17/01/1944	Einnahme von Tarawa durch US-Truppen
27/01/1944	Beginn der Schlacht am Monte Cassino (Rom) bis 18/05/1944
06/04/1944	Befreiung von Leningrad
	Befreiung von Rom

Militärische Vorbereitung & politische Entscheidung des D-Days

19/08/1942	Operation Jubilee in Dieppe: Nach der Evakuierung in Dünkirchen gab es +/- 45 amphibische Operationen. Die Operation Jubilee war die größte, an der rund 6.000 Männer, für die meisten Kanadier, mit Landungen an 6 Stränden beteiligt waren. 65% der Truppen wurden getötet, gefangenengenommen oder vermisst.
12/05/1943	Die dritte Washingtoner Konferenz (bis zum 25/05/1943) zwischen Roosevelt und Churchill vereinbarte, innerhalb des nächsten Jahres eine Cross-Channel-Invasion zu starten.
10/07/1943	Die Landung in Sizilien und später im kontinentalen Italien lieferte Erfahrung im amphibischen Krieg.
17/08/1943	Quebec Conference (bis 24/08/1943): Operation Overlord, die Landung würde in der Normandie stattfinden, da dort die Strände weniger stark verteidigt wurden als die von Pas de Calais und ausreichend Platz für eine große Anzahl gleichzeitiger Landungen bot. Die Landung würde im Mai 1944 stattfinden.
28/11/1943	Konferenz von Teheran: Erstes Treffen zwischen Roosevelt, Churchill und Stalin (Versprechen Großbritanniens und der USA, im Frühjahr 1944 eine zweite Front in Westeuropa zu eröffnen).
24/12/1943	Ernennung von Eisenhower zum Oberbefehlshaber.
Feb/1944	Große Woche: Vernichtung von über 350 feindlichen Kämpfern.
April/1944	Truppen massen im Hinblick auf die Invasion (bis April waren in Großbritannien 1.400.000 Amerikaner stationiert).

Moments clés

Interbellum

28/06/1919	Traité de Versailles: perte de 70 000 km ² (superficie égale à celle de la Belgique et des Pays-Bas, la moitié de la sidérurgie représentant 13% du territoire européen de l'Allemagne), perte de 6. 500 000 habitants, condamnée à payer des "réparations" (7.000 tonnes d'or) et la perte des colonies.
13/07/1931	Les banques allemandes ont été fermées pendant quelques jours: l'Allemagne était en faillite
30/01/1933	Adolf Hitler devient chancelier du Reich en Allemagne
25/11/1936	Anti-Comintern-Pact: traité anticommuniste entre l'Allemagne et le Japon
06/11/1937	L'Italie (avec la Libye, les Dodekanesos, l'Erythrée, le Somaliland, l'Éthiopie et l'Albanie en tant que colonies) adhère au traité.
12/03/1938	Occupation de l'Autriche.
28/03/1938	Occupation des Sudètes (Tchécoslovaquie)
10/04/1938	Anschluss de l'Autriche après référendum
30/09/1938	Accord de Munich: la France et le Royaume-Uni acceptent l'annexion de la région des Sudètes en échange d'une garantie de paix. Création du Reichsgau Niederösterreich
13/03/1939	Protectorat de Bohême et de Moravie
20/03/1939	Ultimatum allemand à la Lituanie d'abandonner la région de Klaipėda avant le 22/03/1939
31/03/1939	alliance militaire anglo-polonaise
07/04/1939	Invasion italienne de l'Albanie
22/05/1939	Pacte d'acier entre l'Allemagne et l'Italie
23/08/1939	Pacte Molotov-Ribbentrop (non-agression) entre l'Allemagne et l'URSS: la Pologne se divisera entre l'URSS et l'Allemagne, l'URSS pourrait reprendre le contrôle de la Lituanie, de l'Estonie et de la Lettonie

La Seconde Guerre mondiale

01/09/1939	L'Allemagne envahit la Pologne
03/09/1939	Déclaration de guerre du Royaume-Uni (avec l'Empire) et de la France (avec le Maroc, l'Algérie, la Tunisie) à l'Allemagne
10/09/1939	Le Canada rejoint le Royaume-Uni en guerre, début de la bataille de l'Atlantique
09/04/1940	L'Allemagne attaque le Danemark et la Norvège
09/04/1940	Capitulation du Danemark
10/05/1940	L'Allemagne attaque les Pays-Bas, la Belgique et la France
10/05/1940	Le Royaume-Uni occupe l'Islande
15/05/1940	Capitulation des Pays-Bas
26/05/1940	Evacuation de Dunkerque (jusqu'au 04/06/1940)

28/05/1940	Capitulation de la Belgique
10/06/1940	Déclaration de guerre de la France à l'Italie, début de la campagne nord-africaine
22/06/1940	Capitulation de la France
10/07/1940	Capitulation de la Norvège
Juillet/1940	l'Amérique se mobilise
10/07/1940	Bataille d'Angleterre (jusqu'au 31/10/1940). Le 16/07/1940, Hitler ordonna la préparation de l'opération Sealion (assaut amphibie et aéroporté). Le 13/10/1940, Hitler reporta l'opération Sealion jusqu'au printemps 1941
27/09/1940	Pacte tripartite entre l'Allemagne, l'Italie et le Japon. Adhésion ultérieure au pacte tripartite: Royaume de Hongrie (10/1940), République slovaque (24/10/1940), Royaume de Roumanie (23/11/1940), Royaume de Bulgarie (01/03/1941). La Yougoslavie et la Croatie ont ensuite adhéré au pacte.
11/02/1941	L'opération Sonnenblume commence avec le Korps allemand d'Afrique
09/04/1941	Traité entre les États-Unis et le Danemark: les États-Unis peuvent protéger le Groenland
17/04/1941	Capitulation de la Yougoslavie
27/04/1941	Capitulation de la Grèce
22/06/1941	L'Allemagne envahit l'URSS (opération Barbarossa)
14/08/1941	Charte atlantique entre les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni.
08/09/1941	Siège de Leningrad
31/10/1941	USS Reuben est coulé par un sous-marin allemand
07/12/1941	Attaque du Japon sur Pearl Harbor à Hawaii
07/12/1941	Déclaration de guerre des États-Unis au Japon
11/12/1941	L'Allemagne déclare la guerre aux États-Unis
19/12/1941	Hitler se nomme commandant en chef
22/12/1942	Conférence Arcadia entre Roosevelt et Churchill
Janv./1942	Les U-Boats menacent les côtes américaines et attaquent les navires américains
26/01/1942	Invasion amicale: les premiers soldats américains arrivent à Belfast
07/06/1942	Victoire à Midway: la marine américaine défait la marine japonaise
17/08/1942	Premier raid de bombardier américain sur l'Allemagne
23/08/1942	Bataille de Stalingrad.
24/10/1942	2ème bataille d'El Alamein en Egypte (jusqu'au 11/11/1942)
08/11/1942	Opération Torch (invasion de l'Afrique du Nord) par les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni
02/02/1943	Capitulation allemande à Stalingrad
Mars/1943	Crise dans l'Atlantique: pertes alliées par les sous-marins allemands
23/03/1943	Bataille d'El Guettar (jusqu'au 03/04) opposant le

06/04/1943	général Patton au général Rommel
	Bataille de Wadi Akarit: retrait des forces de l'Axe de Tunisie
Mai/1943	Black May: les Alliés coulent 38 sous-marins allemands
13/05/1943	Reddition en Afrique du Nord des forces de l'Axe
Juin/1943	Opération Pointblank: bombardement de l'industrie allemande
05/07/1943	Bataille de Koursk (jusqu'au 23/08/1943)
10/07/1943	Invasion des alliés en Sicile
03/09/1943	Invasion d'alliés en Italie continentale
08/09/1943	Proclamation de l'armistice avec l'Italie par le maréchal Badoglio
23/11/1943	Capture de Tarawa par les troupes américaines
17/01/1944	Début de la bataille de Monte Cassino (Rome) jusqu'au 18/05/1944
27/01/1944	Libération de Leningrad
04/06/1944	Libération de Rome

Préparation militaire et décision politique du jour J

19/08/1942	Opération Jubilee à Dieppe: il y a eu +/- 45 opérations amphibies après l'évacuation de Dunkerque. L'opération Jubilee a été la plus importante et a impliqué environ 6 000 hommes, pour la plus part des Canadiens, avec des débarquements sur 6 plages. 65% des troupes ont été tuées, capturées ou portées disparues.
12/05/1943	La troisième conférence de Washington (jusqu'au 25/05/1943) entre Roosevelt et Churchill a convenu de lancer une invasion transmanche au cours de la prochaine année.
10/07/1943	L'invasion de la Sicile et, plus tard, de l'Italie continentale, offre une expérience de la guerre amphibie.
17/08/1943	Conférence de Québec (jusqu'au 24/08/1943): Opération Overlord, le débarquement se ferait en Normandie car les plages étaient moins défendues que celles du Pas de Calais et offraient assez d'espace pour débarquer un grand nombre de bateaux. Le débarquement aurait lieu en mai 1944.
28/11/1943	Conférence de Téhéran: première réunion entre Roosevelt, Churchill et Staline (promesse du Royaume-Uni et des États-Unis d'ouvrir un deuxième champ de bataille au printemps 1944 en Europe occidentale).
24/12/1943	Nomination d'Eisenhower en tant que commandant suprême.
Fév./1944	Grande Semaine: destruction de plus de 350 avions ennemis.
Avril/1944	Les troupes se rassemblent pour l'invasion (en avril, 1 400 000 Américains étaient stationnés en Grande-Bretagne).

Operation Overlord – Operation Neptune

“Operation Overlord” is the general name given to the allied forces’ invasion of Normandy. This operation included an amphibious landing. The Channel-crossing phase was conducted under the command of the British Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, under the code name “Operation Neptune”. 6,939 ships were involved in “Operation Neptune”. This figure comprised 1,213 warships (of which there were 7 battleships, 5 heavy cruisers, 17 light cruisers, 139 destroyers and escorts), 4,126 landing craft (of which there were 310 various types of landing ships), 736 ancillary craft (minesweepers and ships for construction work) and 864 merchant vessels.

SHAEF

Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force. D. Eisenhower was the Supreme Allied Commander, Sir B. Ramsey was the naval commander in chief, Sir T. Leigh-Mallory the air force commander in chief and Sir A. Tedder was the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, B. Montgomery was the Ground Force Commander.

The ground forces initially consisted of the 21st army group under the command of B. Montgomery. There were two armies in this army group: the first US army (O. Bradley) and the 2nd British Army (M. Dempsey). Two army groups were formed once sufficient American troops were operational: the US’s 12th Army Group, including a total of 4 armies (the 1st, 3rd, 9th and 15th army), the 21st Army group with the 2nd British army and the 1st Canadian army.

Allied air force on D-Day

The allied air strength on D-Day included 3,440 heavy bombers, 930 medium and light bombers, 4,190 fighter bombers and fighters, 1,360 troop carriers and transport, 1,070 coastal command, 520 reconnaissance, 80 rescue planes and 517 gliders. In total, there were 12,107 aircraft.

Allied ground troops on D-Day

The first US army consisted of approximately 235,878 troops under the command of Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley. Parts of the 3rd US army were already in the UK on D-Day and they were to be launched on 01/08/1944.

The following U.S. troops were involved on D-Day: 1st Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 29th Infantry Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, Non-Divisional Units (a US

infantry division consisted of 14,253 troops!). Over 1,500,000 American troops and support staffs were in the UK when the invasion was launched.

The 21st British army group, over 221,000 troops strong, was under the command of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery who also commanded the 2nd British Army, including a Canadian division. The following troops were involved On D-day: 3rd Infantry Division, 50th Infantry Division, 3rd Canadian Division, 6th Airborne Division, 79th Armored Division (elements) and 8th Armored Division (elements).

Amongst the other troops there were the “Free France” forces, estimated to be around 400,000 strong of whom at least 5,000 troops were in the UK. The resistance (in France) was estimated to be 300,000 people and they played a big role in gathering information, sabotaging telephone communications and trains. Trains running on coal became increasingly important as the German Army’s fuel supply waned.

Over 100,000 Polish troops and personnel were under British command.

The Belgian Brigade Piron had approximately 5,000 men.

In total, 156,000 troops (including the airborne divisions) landed on D-Day in Normandy.

Approximately 287,000 personnel were aboard allied ships on D-Day.

Allied naval force on D-Day

The naval forces were organized in a Western Task Force, composed of task force U(tah), task force O(maha) and an Eastern Task Force, including task force G(old), J(uno) and S(word). The organization was such that each beach had a direct link to their own task force. A number of warships were also dedicated to each beach. What follows is a brief enumeration of the appointed warships per beach:

Sword Beach: The HMS Ramillies, HMS Rodney, HMS Warspite, HMS Frobisher, HMS Danae, HMS Kempenfelt, HMS Middleton, HMS Undaunted, ORP Dragon and HNorMS Svenner (hit by a torpedo and sunk on D-Day).

Juno Beach: the HMCS Alberni, HMCS Algonquin, HMS Bleasdale, La Combattante (Free French), HMS Diadem, HMS Fury, HNorMS Glaisdale, HMS Hilary, HMS Kelvin, HMS Sioux, HMS Stevenstone, HMS Venus, HMS Vigilant and HMS Wrestler.

Gold Beach: the HMS Ajax, HMS Argonaut, HMS Belfast, HMS Bulolo, HMS Cattistock, HMS Cottesmore, HMS Emerald, HMS Jervis, HMS Grenville, ORP Krakowiak, HMS Loyalty, HMS Pytchely, HMS Orion, HMS Ulysses, HMS Urania, HMS Ulster, HMS Undaunted, HMS Undine, HMS Urchin, HMS Ursa.

Omaha Beach: the USS Arkansas, USS Texas, HMS Bellona, Georges Leygues (Free French), HMS Glasgow, USS Carmick, USS Frankford, USS Herndon, HMCS Kitchener, USS Maloy, USS Murphy, and HMS Tanatside.

Pointe du Hoc: the USS McCook, USS Satterlee and USS Thompson. Utah Beach: the USS Nevada, HMS Hawkins, USS Quincy, HMS Enterprise, USS Hobson, USS Laffey and USS Rich.

The total number of vessels deployed on D-Day was 6,939 of which over 1,200 were naval combat ships, and over 4,000 were landing ships and landing craft.

Special preparations for D-Day

- Two Mulberry (prefabricated) harbors were produced. They consisted of over 400 towed parts (+/- 150 Phoenix concrete caissons were to be sunk). The harbors were operational by 16/06/1944 (in Arromanches and St-Laurent-sur-Mer).

- Located in the middle of the D-Day beaches and with a port facility, Port-en-Bessin was chosen to host the oil terminal pending the liberation of Cherbourg. Tankers, connected to the mainland by pipelines, supplied the port with oil. Transferred to storage tanks, the fuel was then transported to the tanks installed on Mount Cauvin. The code name of this system is Tombola, minor system of the Pluto operation.

- The Pluto pipeline (fuel pipelines under the ocean) ran between the Isle of Wight and Cherbourg (130km). The pipeline was operational by 22/09/1944.

- Hobart’s funnies: modified tanks and bulldozers were conceived and produced for amphibious landings.

- Deception: Operation Bodyguard. This involved operations Fortitude. Operation Fortitude North suggested an invasion of Norway and Fortitude South involved an invasion in Pas de Calais, directed by Gen. Patton (with a fake army including inflatable tanks)

- Colossus: Allied troops managed to get a copy of the German encoder and Alan Turing was able to crack the “Enigma” code (apparently the words “Heil Hitler”, often used at the end of a message, played an important role in this decryption). From February 1944 on, a

Sword Beach: 3rd Infantry Division of the British 2nd Army

Under Major-General T. Rennie, Lt-Gen J. Crocker ran the I Corps, Lieutenant-General C. Dempsey belonged to the British 2nd Army and Field Marshal B. Montgomery belonged to the 21st Army Group.

Assault between 07h17' and 08h00' (H Hour 07h25');

Queen Red Sector: Colleville-Montgomery, (previously Colleville-sur-Orne)

Queen White Sector: Hermanville-sur-Mer.

8th Infantry Brigade:

- 1st Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment of the 8th Infantry Brigade. The first companies to land were A and C companies and they landed on Queen White Sector. Landings started at 07h25', the B and D companies landed 20 minutes later,
- 2nd Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment. The first companies to land were A and B companies in Queen Red. The C and D companies landed 20 minutes later in Queen Red (the size of a battalion is approximately 845 men). Landings started at 07h25',
- 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment landed at Queen White Sector from 08h25'.

185th Infantry Brigade landed between 09h55' and 11h35'

- 2nd Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment,
- 1st Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment,
- 2nd Battalion King's Own Shropshire Light Infantry.

9th Infantry Brigade began landing at 12h00', (The beach was closed for clearing at 12h45'),

- 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment,
- 1st Battalion King's Own Borderers,
- 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles.

Divisional troops

- Royal Engineers:
 - 77th & 79th Assault Squadrons (gaps) supported by 16th Field Engineer Company,
 - 246th & 253rd Field Park Company,
 - 17th & 15th Field Company,
 - 2nd Bridge Platoon.
- Royal Artillery:

- 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regt. (MG) lands at Queen White at 07h30',
- 20th Anti-Tank Regiment (45th battery) landed early,
- 73rd Anti-Tank Regiment landed early,
- 76th Highland Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery (24 tanks) landed at 08h40',
- 33th Field Regt. of the Royal Artillery (24 tanks) landed at 09h10',
- 7th Field Regiment Royal Artillery landed at 10h30',
- 2nd Light Anti-aircraft Regiment.

• Royal Army Service Corps: 23th, 47th & 48th Company (2nd wave).

• 3rd Division Signals, Provost, REME, RAOC, RAMC (8th, 9th and 223rd field ambulance).

• 3rd Reconnaissance Regiment (Northumberland Fusiliers).

Attached to the division for the assault phase of D-Day

• 27th Armoured Brigade

- 13th/18th (Queen Mary's own) Royal Hussars Regiment (ex 79th armoured division): Sherman DD tanks A Squadron lands on Queen White and B Squadron on Queen Red. On D-Day 34 Sherman Duplex Drive tanks (that could also navigate at 7km/h in the sea) were launched at 4.5 km from the beach at 06h30'. The remaining 6 tanks were launched at the beach. Approximately 1/3 of the tanks were lost in the surf and shortly after. The tanks reached the beach slightly after 07h25'. C Squadron landed afterwards,
- Staffordshire Yeomanry Regiment (Tanks supporting 185th Inf. Brig.) landed at 10h15',
- 1st East Riding of Yorkshire Yeomanry Regiment landed at 15h50'.

• 79th Armoured Division

- The 22nd Dragoons Regiment came from the 30th Armoured Brigade. This regiment was armed with flail Tanks or Crabs: these were modified M4 Sherman tanks, equipped in front with a large rotor covered with chains to flog the ground around them, making nearby mines explode. The A Squadron was launched on Queen Red beach with 4 tanks and on Queen White beach with 13 tanks. The C Squadron on Queen Red with 8 tanks. The Squads were launched at 07h25',
- 5th Assault regiment of the Royal Engineers belonging to the 1st Assault Brigade Royal Engineers, and were assigned to the 79th Armoured division landed with AVREs (Armoured

Vehicle Royal Engineers) special vehicles designed to clear the coast of mines and obstacles and to create tracks roads or bridges. The 79th Squadron (20 tanks) landed on Queen Red and the 77th Squadron (20 tanks) on Queen White at 07h25',

- 629th Field Squadron (first wave).

• Royal Marines

- 5th Royal Marines Armoured Support Group. On Sword beach the independent Royal Marine Armoured Support Battery (R, S, T and V troops) started landing with +/- 100 tanks (80 Centaur tanks and 20 Sherman at 07h25'),
- Commando N^o. 4 (Lt-Col Dawson) of the Royal Marines of the 1st Special Service Brigade (commanded by Lord Lovat) landed on Queen Red at 07h32',
- 1st Battalion de Fusilier Marins Commandos of Lieutenant P. Kieffer (177 troops) was a part of the 4th Commando,
- Commando N^o. 6 of the 1st Special Service Brigade of Lord Lovat, led by Lt-Col Dawson. Simon Fraser also participated in the raid on Dieppe and landed alongside this Commando on Queen Red at 08h40',
- Commando N^o. 3 of Lord Lovat's 1st Special Service Brigade landed at 09h10',
- 41st Commando of the Royal Marines (Lt-Col Gray) of the 4th Special Service Brigade landed in the Queen White Sector (08h40') to secure the flanks and establish contact with Juno beach,
- 45th Commando of the Royal Marines (Lt-Col Ries) of the 4th Special Service Brigade landed on the Queen Red at 09h10'.

• No. 5 Beach group (among them 5th Battalion, King's Regiment)

• No. 6 Beach group in reserve (among them 1st Buckinghamshire Battalion)

German side

Sword beach fell under K.V.A.H1 (Küsten Verteidigung Abschnitt) Caen and was defended by the 716th infantry-division of the 7th army under the command of AOK 7 (Armeeoberkommando 7).

K.V.A. H1 was divided into 2 'Gruppe': K.V.-Gruppe Riva-Bella and K.V.-Gruppe Courseulles. Sword Beach fell under KV-Gruppe Riva-Bella and was defended by Grenadier-regiment 736 Battalion I (companies 2 & 4), III (company 10) and IV: Russians: 3rd Company located in Hermanville).

Divisional Artillery-Regiment 1716 Battalion I (Companies 1, 2, 4 located in WN 01, 12, 16).

Finally, there was *Kusten-Artillerie-Abteilung* 1260 from the *Heeresküstenartillerie* for WN 08 Riva Bella.

Panzer-Division 21, belonging to the 27th *Panzer Gruppe West*, partly located in *St-Pierre-sur-Dives* (30km from *Ouistreham*). The *Panzer-Genadier-Regiment* 125 was located in *Vimont* (15km from *Ouistreham*). Resistance was organized around concrete Pillboxes or Casemates with guns from 50mm to 88 mm. Each locality counted around 30 or more soldiers.

WN 10 Riva-Bella (2,500m to the east) anti-tank 2x75mm, 2x50mm, 6 embrasure turret bunker,

WN 18 Colleville Plage: casemate with field gun 75mm, anti-tank 50mm, 25mm, tank turret

WN 20 La Breche: anti-tank 75mm, 2x50mm, 37mm, 2 mortar, several machine guns

WN 21 Lion-sur-Mer ("Trout" 1,500m to the west): anti-tank 75mm, 2x50mm, flak 20mm, machine guns. WN 21 was partly damaged by the naval attack.

Battle and situation in the evening

07h30' Strong German resistance on Queen Red,

09h30' Hermanville is liberated,

10h00' Strongpoint 20 La Breche is eliminated,

12h50' Lord Lovat reaches Bénouville Pegasus Bridge, relieves 2nd

Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (Airborne),

13h00' 1st Suffolk Regiment liberates Strongpoint Morris,

13h00' Stiff resistance around Strongpoint 21 "Trout",

15h30' Control of port of Ouistreham seized,

15h45' Strongpoint Sole is eliminated,

16h00' Counter attack of the 21e Panzer,

18h00' 2nd Battalion East Yorkshire Regt control of Daimler battery

20h15' Control of Strongpoint Hillman seized by 1st Suffolk Regiment British & Canadian airborne div. kept Bénouville (Pegasus Bridge)

185th Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Div. take Biéville (5km from Caen)

By the end of the day, nearly 29,000 men had landed on Sword Beach alongside 2,600 vehicles.

According to most of the literature, there were approximately 700 casualties (killed, injured or missing).

The German Army's 716th Infantry Division lost 860 men, 1,250 went missing and 520 were injured.

Juno Beach: 3rd Canadian Infantry Division & 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade of the British 2nd Army

Major-General R. Keller, as well as Lt-Gen J. Crocker who belonged to the I Corps, Lieutenant-General C. Dempsey of the British 2nd Army and Field Marshal B. Montgomery who belonged to the 21st Army Group.

Assault between 07h50' and 08h25' (H Hour 07h45');

Nan Red Sector: Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, Bernières-sur-Mer,

Nan White Sector: Bernières-sur-Mer,

Nan Green Sector: Courseulles-sur-Mer,

Mike Red & Green Sector: Courseulles-sur-Mer.

8th Infantry Brigade: St-Aubin-sur-Mer and Bernières-sur-Mer (landings starting at 08h00').

•North Shore Regiment towards St-Aubin-sur-Mer (Nan Red Sector) A Company west (Bernières-sur-Mer) & B Company east (towards St-Aubin).

•Queen's Own Rifles Regiment at Bernières-sur-Mer (Nan White)

- A Company landed west of Bernières (they got rather quickly off the beach) at 8h45' in village south west point,

- B Company landed east (in front of Pillbox) 65 casualties in a few minutes; off beach at 9h00',

- C and D Companies start landing on Nan White at 08h45'.

•Régiment de la Chaudière (Québec) lands from 08h30' on Nan White.

7th Infantry Brigade: Courseulles-sur-Mer (landings start at 07h50')

•Canadian Scottish Regiment C Company landed on west flank (Mike Red & Green Sectors).

•Royal Winnipeg Rifles Regiment landed on Mike. B Company landed on Mike Red and D Company on Mike Green as first. B Company came under gunfire some 600 meters from the beach. Reserve Companies A and C landed a little thereafter.

•Regina Rifles Regiment landed on Nan Green east B Company (a bit easier) and west of A Company.

9th Infantry Brigade: started landing at 11h00' at Nan White Sector, causing congestion (Nan Red Sector was closed due to enemy gun fire).

- The Highland Light Infantry of Canada,
- The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders,
- The North Nova Scotia Highlanders.

Divisional troops

•Royal Canadian Artillery

• 12th and 13th Field Artillery Regiment launched rockets on Courseulles at 06h55' (supporting 7th Brigade),

• 14th Field Artillery Regiment launched rockets on Bernières-sur-Mer at 07h40' (supporting 8th Brigade),

• 19th Field Artillery Regiment launched rockets on St-Aubin-sur-Mer at 07h45' (supporting 8th Brigade),

• 105th Battery of the 3rd Anti-Tank Regiment (supported the 8th Infantry Brigade),

• 4th Light-Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

•3rd Division Signals Regiment (Royal Corps of Signals) lands as from 08h00'.

•7th Reconnaissance Regiment (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars) landings as from 07h45' (traffic control).

•Royal Canadian Engineers

• 3rd Canadian Field Park Company, RCE 2,

• 5th Canadian Field Company, RCE (Obstacle Clearance) supported 7th & 8th Infantry Brigade) started landing at 07h45',

• 6th Canadian Field Company, RCE (Assault 7th and 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade) start landing at 08h00',

• 16th Canadian Field Company, RCE (Assault with 8th Infantry Brigade),

• 18th Canadian Field Company RCE (Obstacle Clearance with 7th Infantry Brigade).

Supporting corps divisional units integrated

•Royal Canadian Army Service Corps.

•N°14 (7th Inf. Brig.), 22 (8th Inf. Brig.), 23 (9th Inf. Brig.) Field Ambulance of Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.

•Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.



SWORD



D-Day Weddings (DE p 261, FR p 262)

Jacqueline Noel was a young girl of seventeen living in Hermanville. She had been swimming in a red bathing suit, given to her by her twin sister (killed by allied bombings) for their birthday, on the day before D-Day. As she awoke on the morning of the invasion, with all of the noise and chaos unfolding on all sides, she realised that she had left her bathing suit at the beach, in a small hut used for getting changed. She passed through the

German lines by showing her Red Cross armband (she was a student nurse). Jacqueline stayed on the beach for two complete days nursing injured troops. Jacqueline met John Thornton, who served in the artillery and who was a Lieutenant in the British Army, during the chaos on Sword beach. They got to know each other better and later married. According to Stephen Ambrose there are 5 other couples (3 British and 2 American) that met on D-Day and are still married. (<http://www.historynet.com>)





A Squadron (2nd troop) 22nd Dragoons of the 30th Armoured Brigade of the 79th Armoured Division (flails 07h25')

C Company of the 1st Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment of the 8th Infantry Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division



Operation Tom Cat (DE p 261, FR p 262)

Allied Military Currency ("AMC") was a form of currency issued by the Allied powers during World War II. It was intended to be issued to troops entering liberated or recently occupied countries, as a form of currency control. The money was printed in the USA. There were 2 varieties of issue: the "Supplemental Issue" (of which 3 billion was printed and which featured a French flag) and the "Provisional Issue" (with a map of France at the back). The provisional issue notes were used between 1946 and 1948.

Historically, soldiers serving overseas had been paid in local currency, rather than in their "home" currency. This was a measure taken to avoid inflation, due to the parallel circulation of "hard currencies", such as the Dollar. However, while the use of local currencies was effective, where they were provided in cooperation with the local authorities, it was impractical in combat zones where the government might be either hostile, deliberately ambivalent, or simply non-existent. In these cases, the military authorities issued special "military currency", which was paid out to soldiers at a fixed rate of exchange and was simply declared legal

WN 29 Courseulles-sur-Mer Ost: 6/736 Grenadier-Regt. of the 716th Inf. Div. anti-tank 2x50mm, field gun 75mm, mortar 3x88mm, machine guns



26th Squadron of the 5th Assault Regiment of the 1st Assault Brigade Royal Engineers (British Forces; Avre's 08h15')

B Squadron 6th Armoured Regiment 1st Hussars (DD Tanks 08h15')

B Squadron (3rd troop) 22nd Dragoons of 30th Armoured Brigade of the 79th Armoured Division (Br





vision (British Forces; flails 08h20')

A Company Regina Rifles Regiment of the 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division (08h09')





OMAHA

WN 71 Vierville Ost: 11/726 Grenadier Regt. of 716th Inf. Div. and troops of 916 Grenadier Regt. of 352nd Inf. Div. ↓
mortars and machine guns (including tobruks)

WN 72 Vierville Casino (same troops as WN 71) ↓
field gun 88 mm 75mm, mortar, anti-tank, machine guns

EXIT D(og) I



Landing of A Company of 1st Battalion of 116th Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division (first wave Bedford Boys)



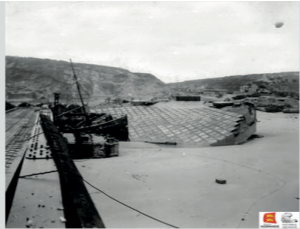


↓ ↓

↓ WN 73 Vierville West (same troops as WN 71)
field gun 75mm, 2 mortars, machine guns

↓

OMAHA ↓



Landing of B Company of 1st Battalion of 116th Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division (07h00')

Landing of C Company of the 2nd Rangers Battalion (first wave)



HOUSE 645920

Admiralty Charts Booklet G G.S.G.S. January 1944