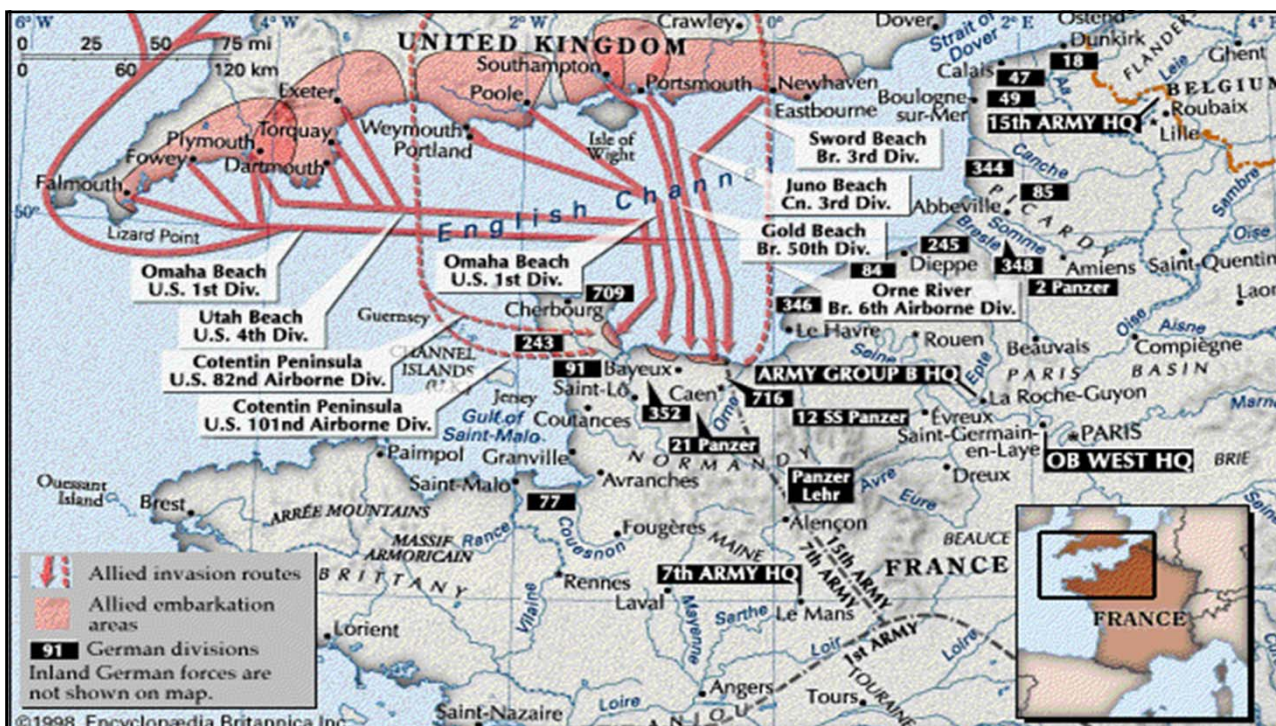
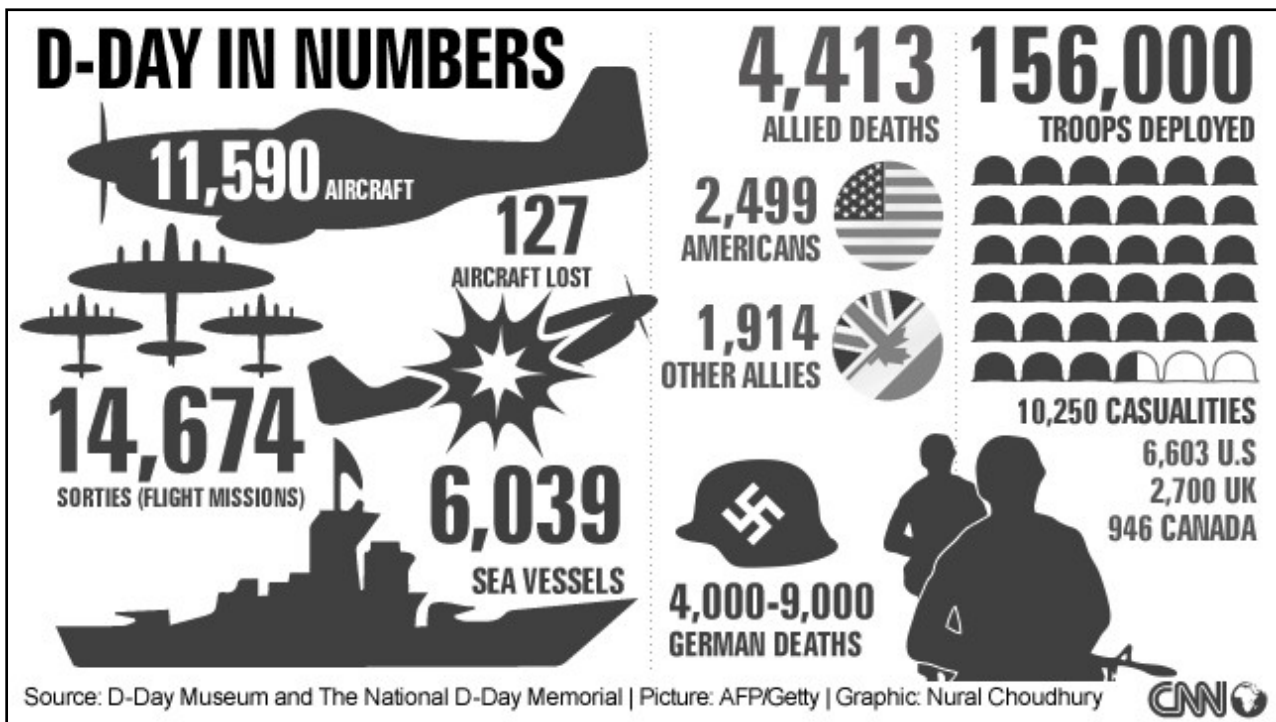




# MILITARY HISTORY

## D-DAY LANDINGS 6 JUNE 1944





# OMAHA BEACH

## 0631, 6 June 1944

Presented by Ray Sarlin

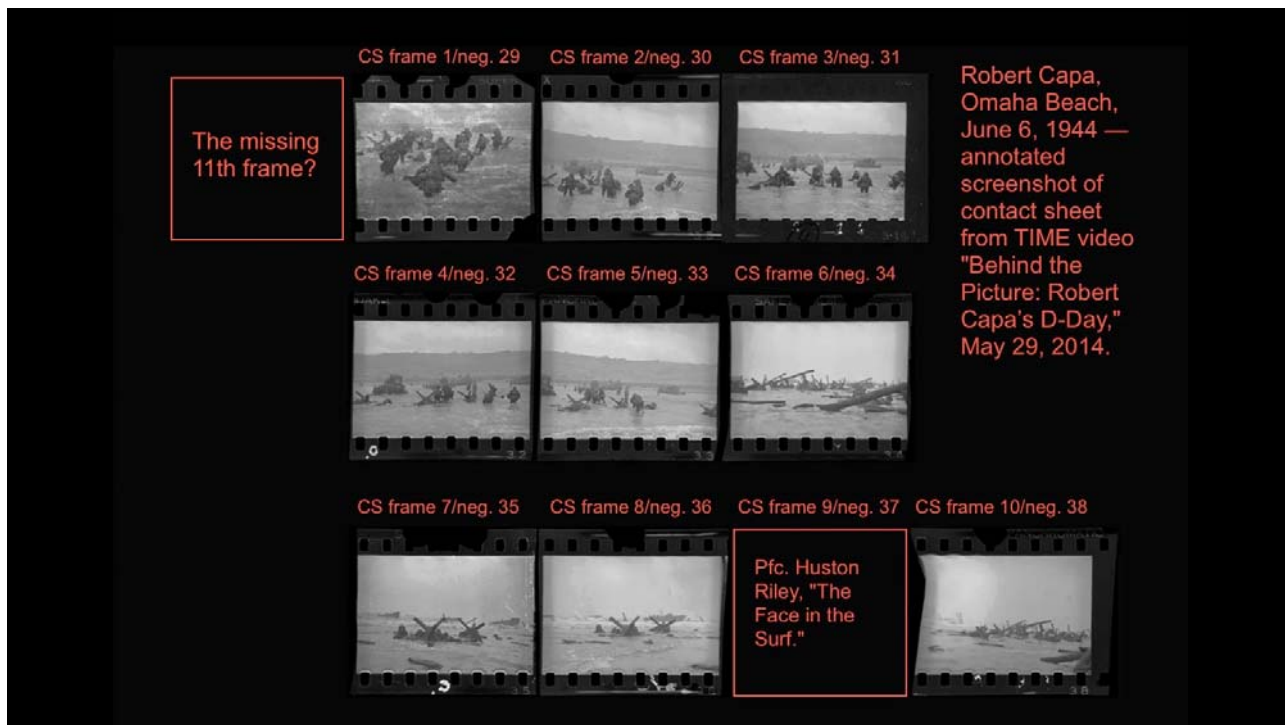












- Normandy was chosen over Pas-de-Calais because defences were believed to be lighter and advancing troops would have fewer rivers and canals to cross.
- On April 28 1944 off Slapton Sands in Devon 946 American servicemen were killed when German torpedo boats sank a convoy of ships involved in a D-Day dress rehearsal.
- In May 1944 crucial codewords for D-Day appeared in Daily Telegraph crosswords. MI5 found no evidence of foul play.
- High command thought a successful landing would cost 10,000 dead and 30,000 wounded – 30,000 stretchers and 60,000 blankets were issued. Actual casualties were 4,572 (~2,500 at Omaha) and 10,000 overall. Germans lost ~9,000.
- Canadian forces also met heavy resistance on Juno Beach.



- New gadgets designed for D-Day included a “swimming tank,” a flame throwing tank (“the crocodile”) and collapsible motorbikes.
- One commander tested security among his men by deploying 30 members of the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force to local pubs to see if any would divulge the top secret plan – none did.
- Condoms were issued to soldiers – most were used for covering the end of their rifles to keep them dry.
- Eisenhower wrote a draft statement which read: “I have withdrawn the troops... If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone.”

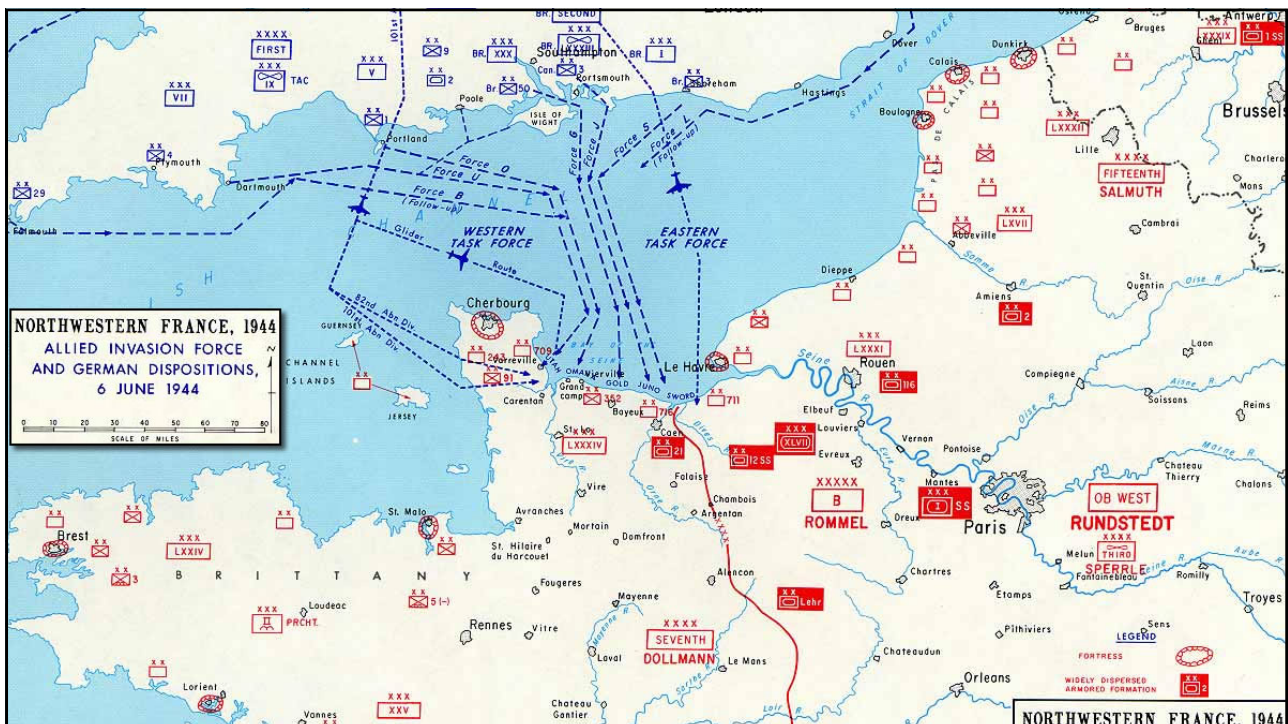
- From 2300 on June 5, 24,000 airborne troops were delivered behind German lines to secure important roads and bridges. Along with more than 2,000 aircraft 867 gliders were used. Dummy paratroopers were also dropped to help convince the Germans that the real landings would take place elsewhere.
- At 0300 6 June, 1,900 Allied bombers attacked German lines dropping 7,000,000 pounds of bombs. 10,521 combat aircraft flew a total of 15,000 sorties on D-Day, with 113 lost.
- A naval bombardment from seven battleships, 18 cruisers, and 43 destroyers lasted from 0500 until 0625.
- The first wave of 1,430 men hit Omaha Beach at 0631. 90% became casualties.

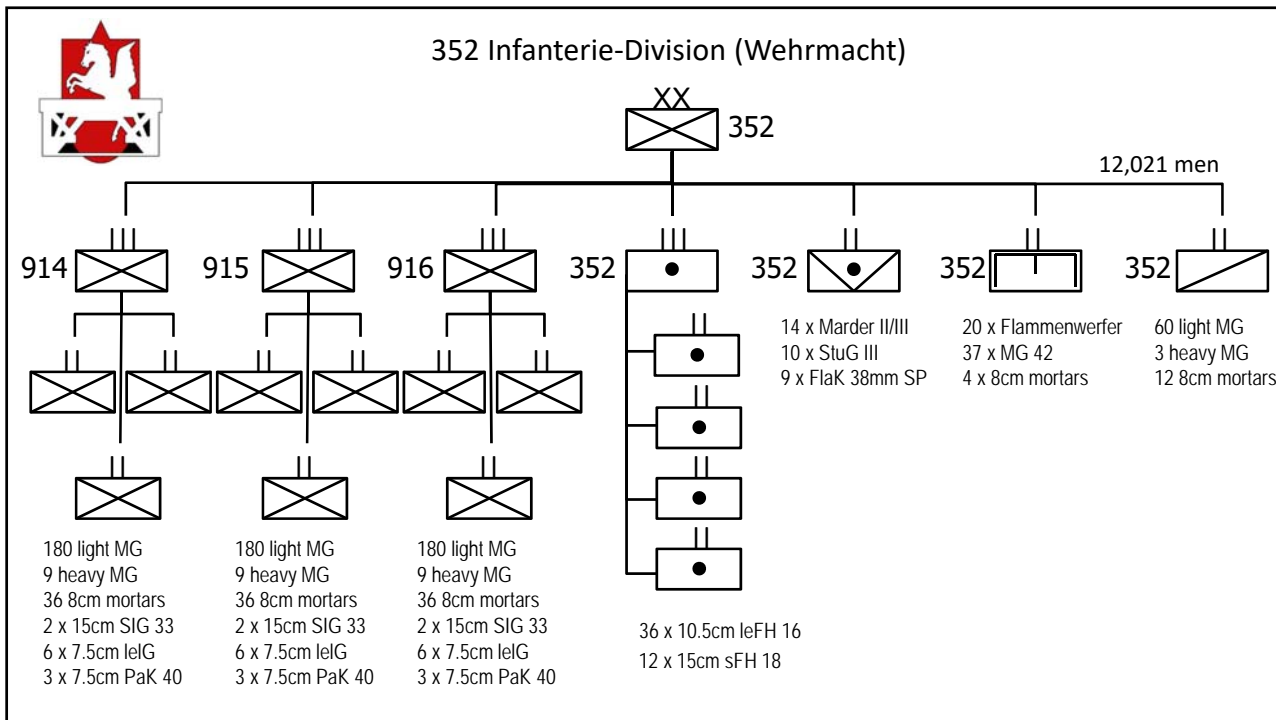
- In the first hour (first four waves), the chance of becoming a casualty (KIA or WIA) was one in two.
- There were 61,715 British troops, 21,400 Canadians and 73,000 Americans in the assault waves. Around 50,000 German troops directly opposed the landings.
- German casualties in Normandy were 2,300 men per division per month – higher than (comparable to) the Eastern Front.
- Adolf Hitler was asleep when word of the invasion arrived, but nobody dared to wake him so the Germans lost vital time.
- Believing the weather reports, Erwin Rommel was on leave in Berlin for his wife's birthday.

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## Omaha Beach - major problems

- Allied intelligence failure to identify 352d ID.
- Pre-landing bombardment ineffective.
- Floating tanks didn't. 27/29 of 741<sup>st</sup> Tank Bn (2 companies) swamped, so 743d were landed on beach.
- Ten landing craft swamped.
- 2/9 companies in first wave landed on target.
- Casualties heaviest on either end of the beach.
- Of 16 engineer teams, only six cleared their gap.
- First wave too damaged to support larger second wave.





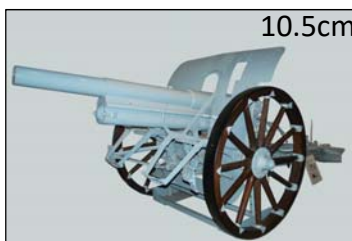
PaK 38/40  
Antitank Gun  
**x9**

Marder III  
**x14**



M34 8cm  
Mortar  
**x124**

MG 42  
**x667**



10.5cm IeFH 16  
**x36**

StuG III  
**x10**



15cm sFH 18  
**x12**



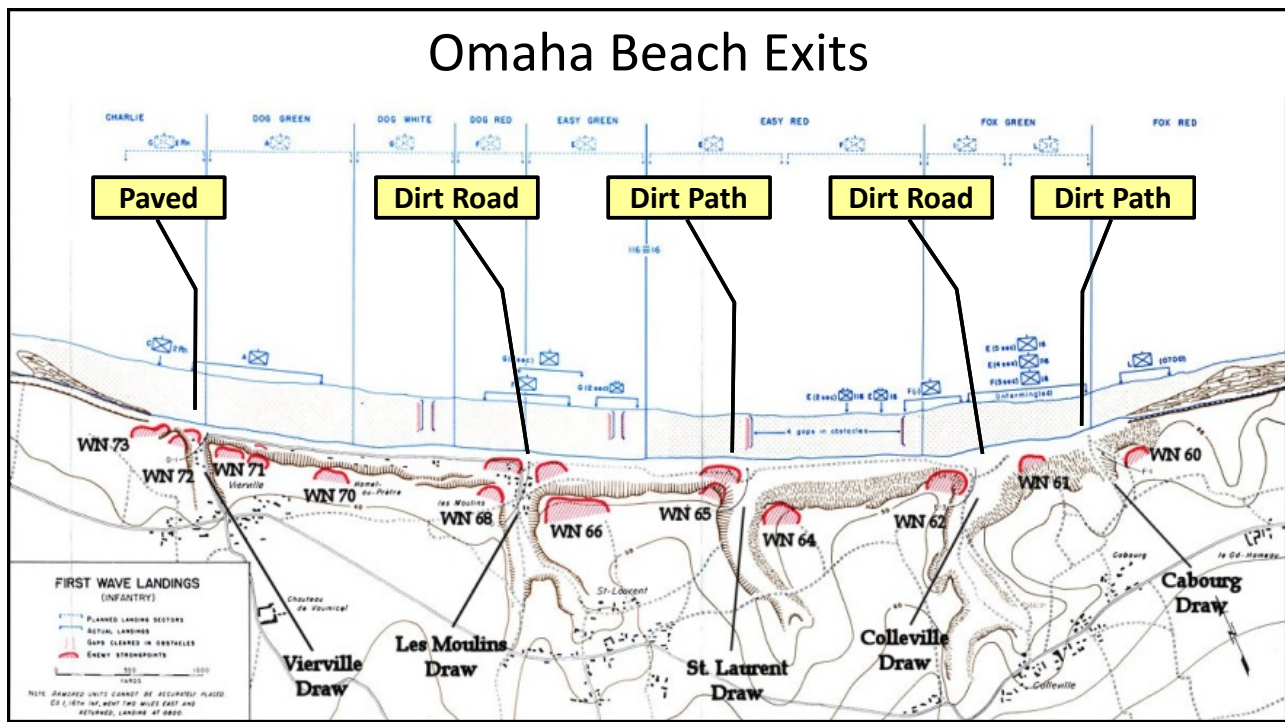
SIG 33  
**x6**



FlaK 3.7  
**x9**







## Omaha Beach Missions



1. Capture the villages of Vierville, Saint-Laurent, and Colleville.



2. Push through and cut the Bayeux-Isigny road.



3. Attack south toward Trévières and west toward the Pointe du Hoc.



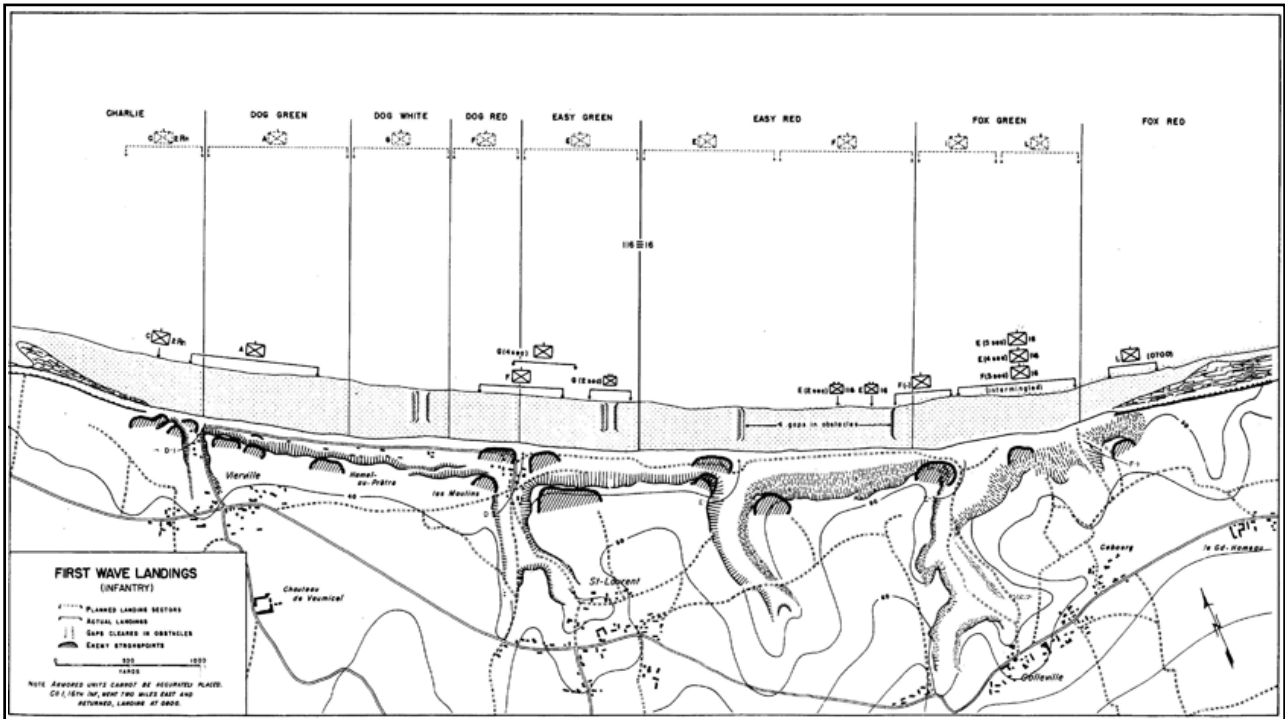
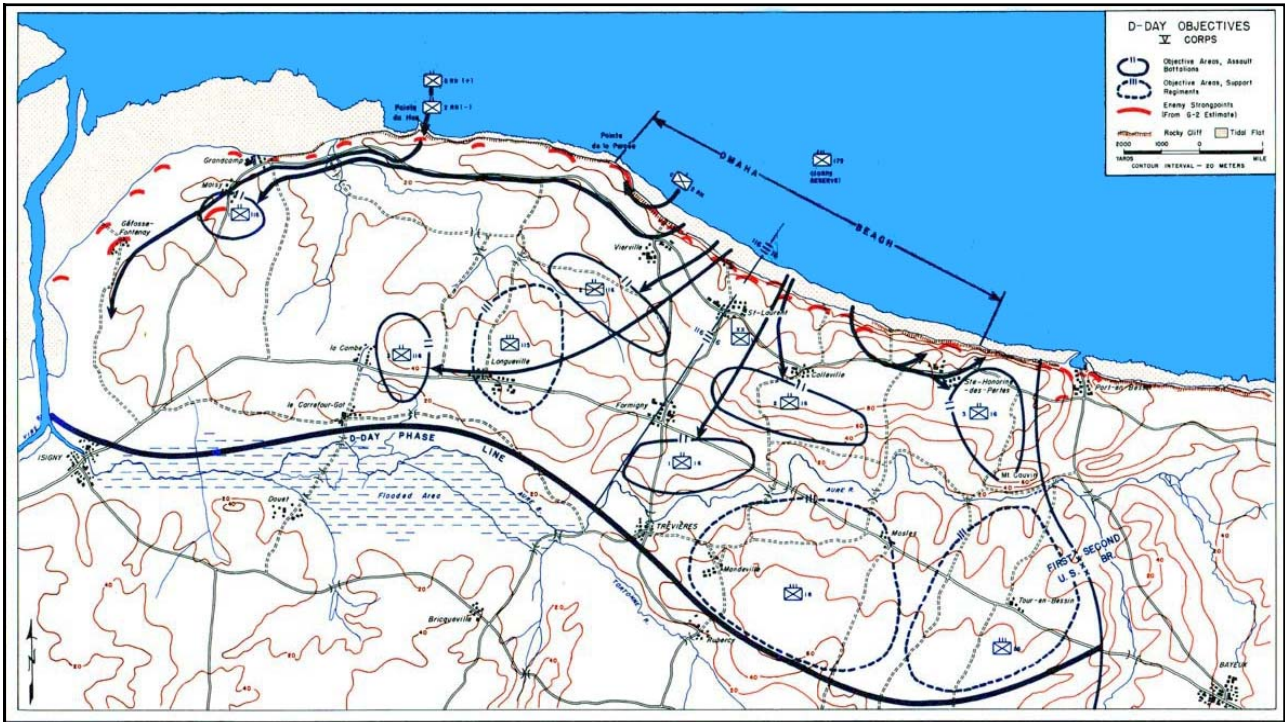
4. Elements of the 16th Regiment were to link up at Port-en-Bessin with British units from Gold Beach.

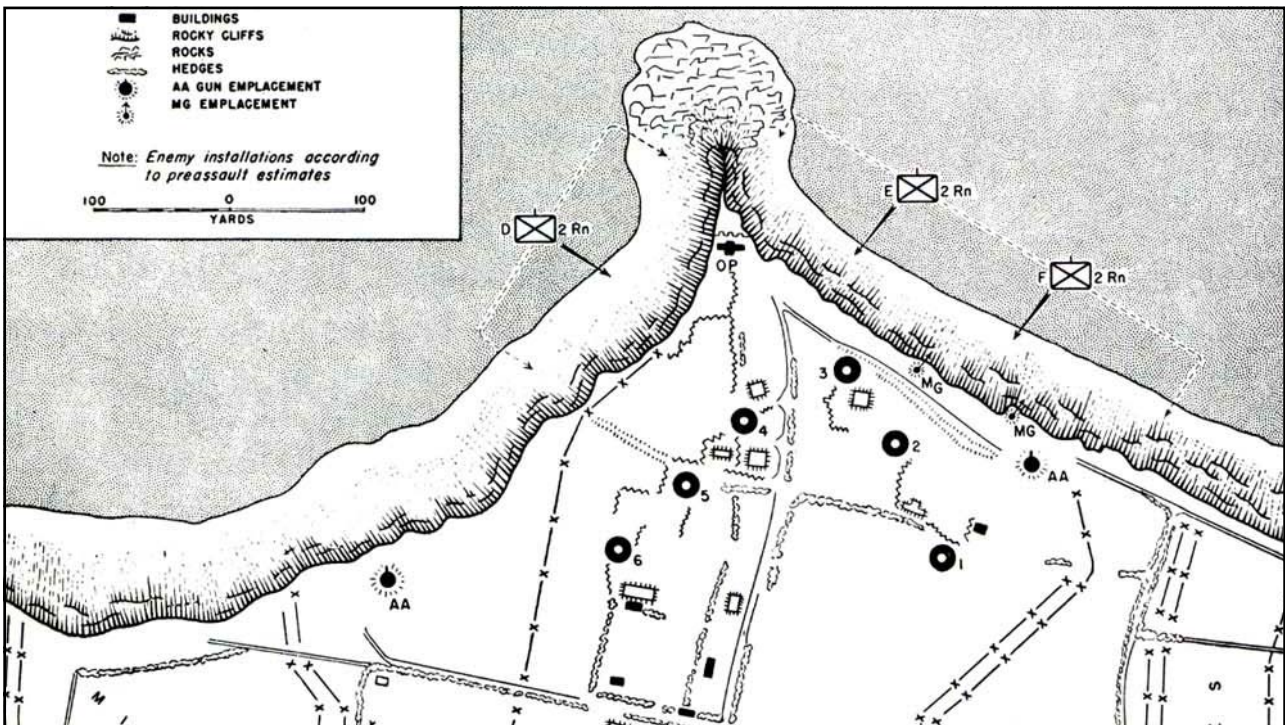
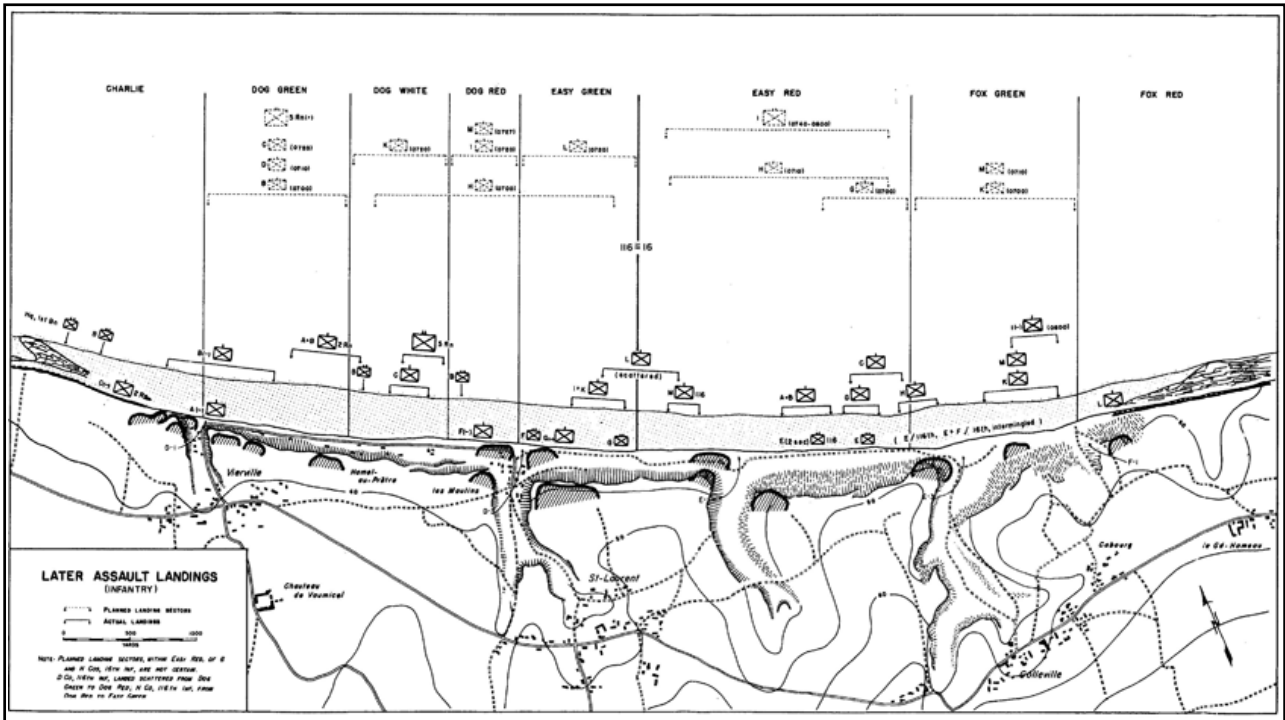


5. Support the western flank of the 16th Infantry.

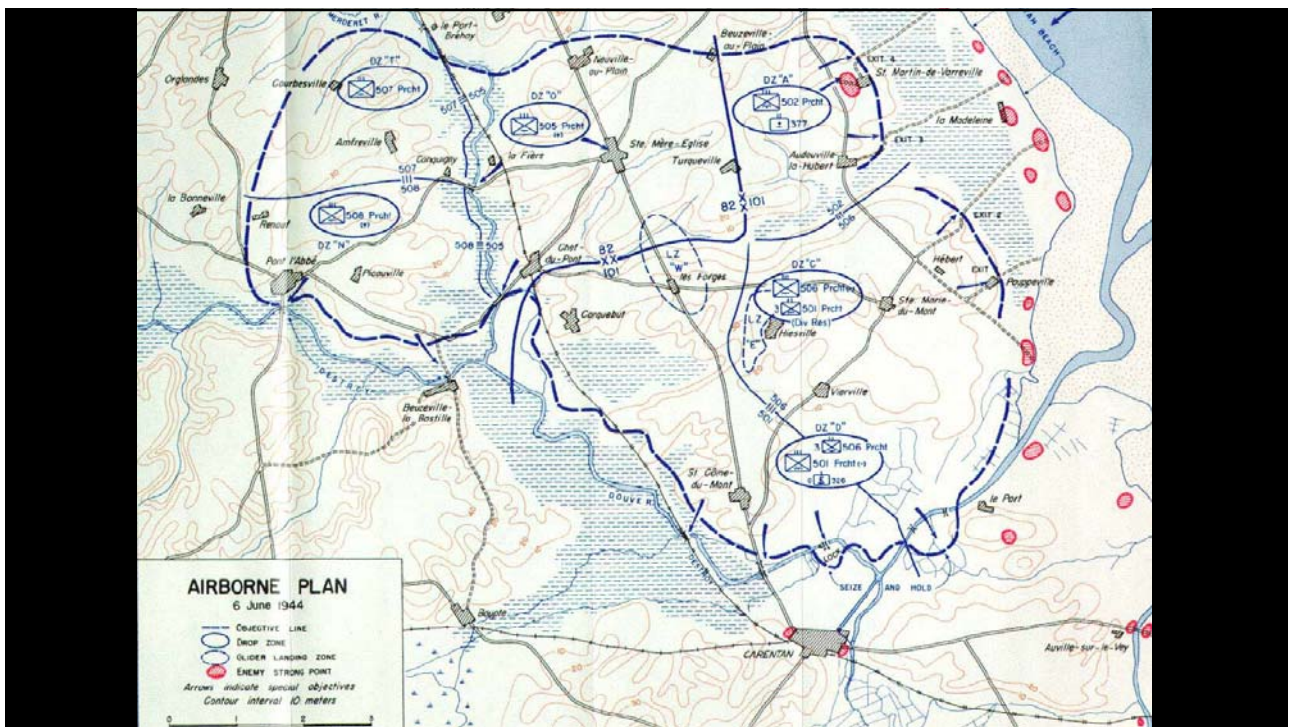
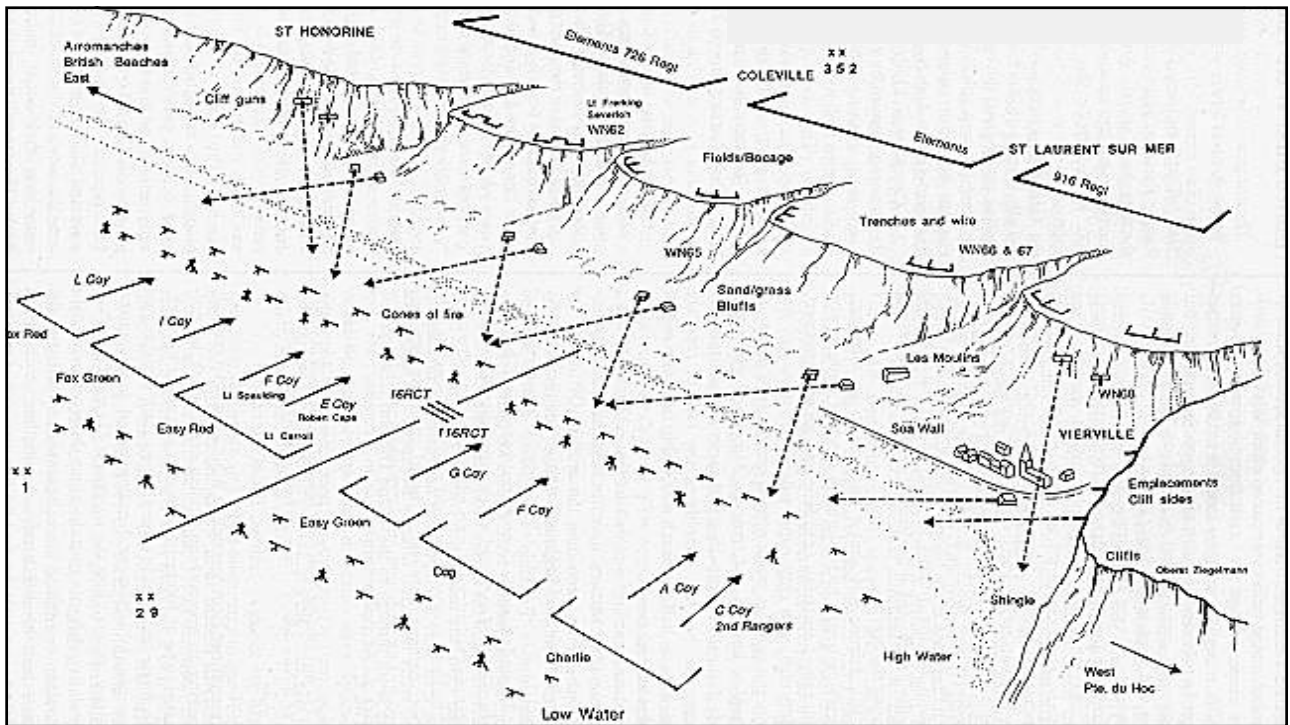


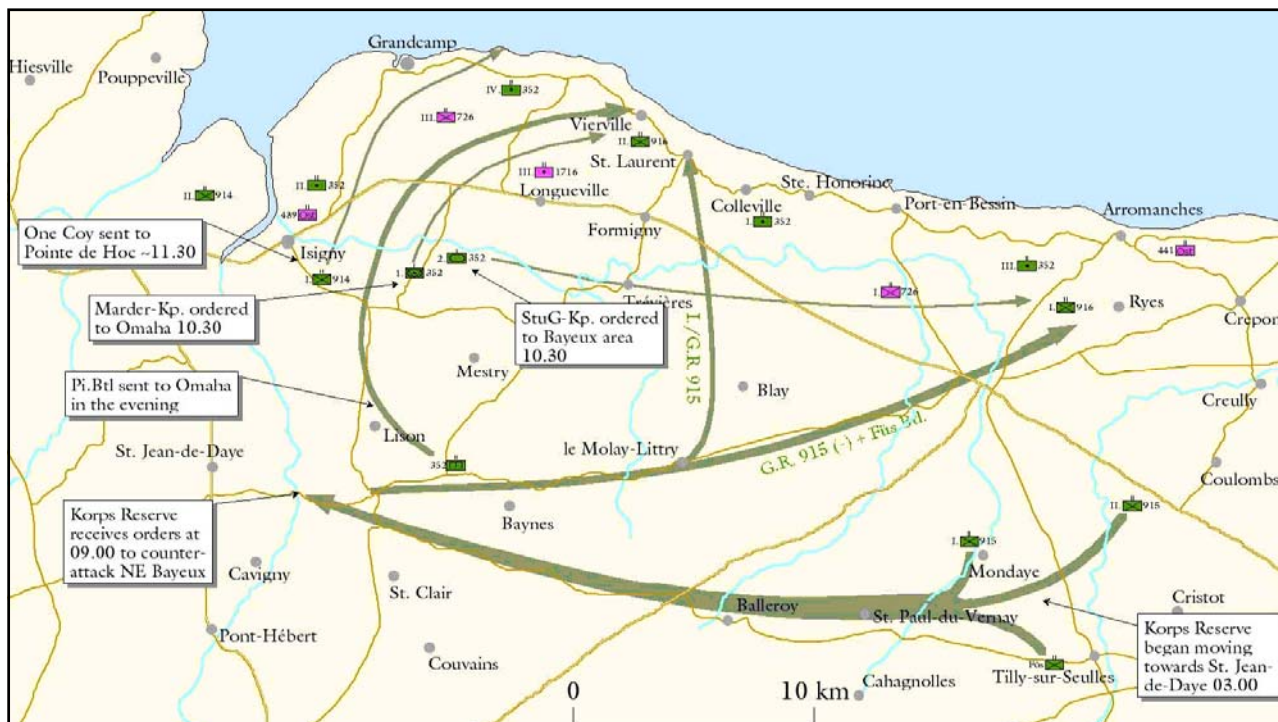
6. Destroy the artillery at Pointe du Hoc.



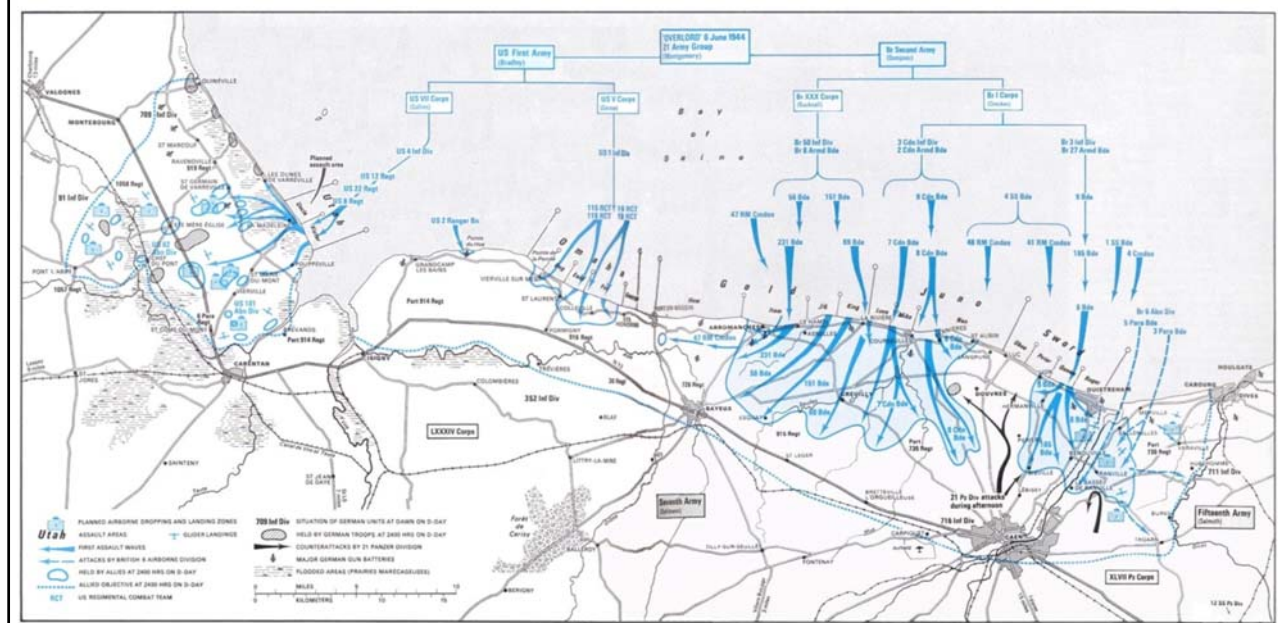








## Allied Beach Head, 2400 hours, 6 June 1944





















# UTAH BEACH

0631, 6 June 1944

Presented by Marti Sarlin

## Utah Beach Missions

- 


 1. Secure a beachhead on the Cotentin Peninsula.
- 


 2. Rapidly seal off the Cotentin Peninsula.
- 


 3. Prevent Germans from reinforcing Cherbourg.
- 


 4. Capture the port as quickly as possible.
- 

 5. Secure the key crossroads at Sainte-Mère-Église.
- 
 6. Destroy road and rail bridges over the Douve.
- 
 7. Destroy two additional bridges over the Douve and capture intact two bridges over the Merderet.
- 

 8. Control the causeways behind Utah Beach.



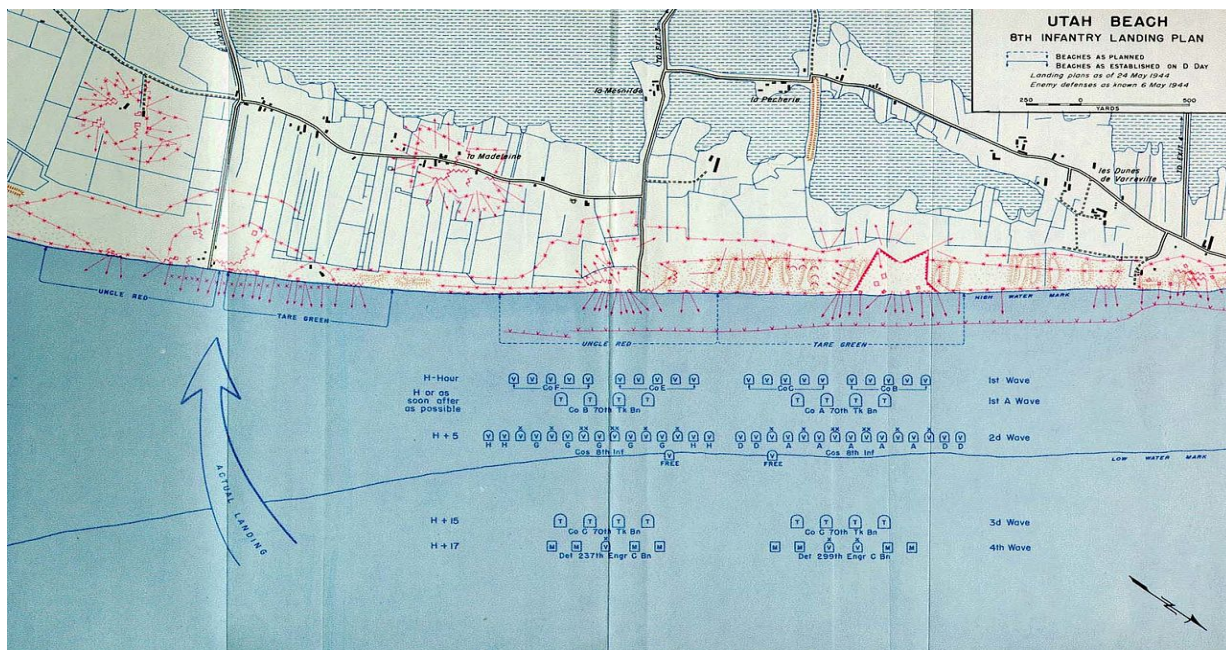
D-Day: The Utah Beach Landing

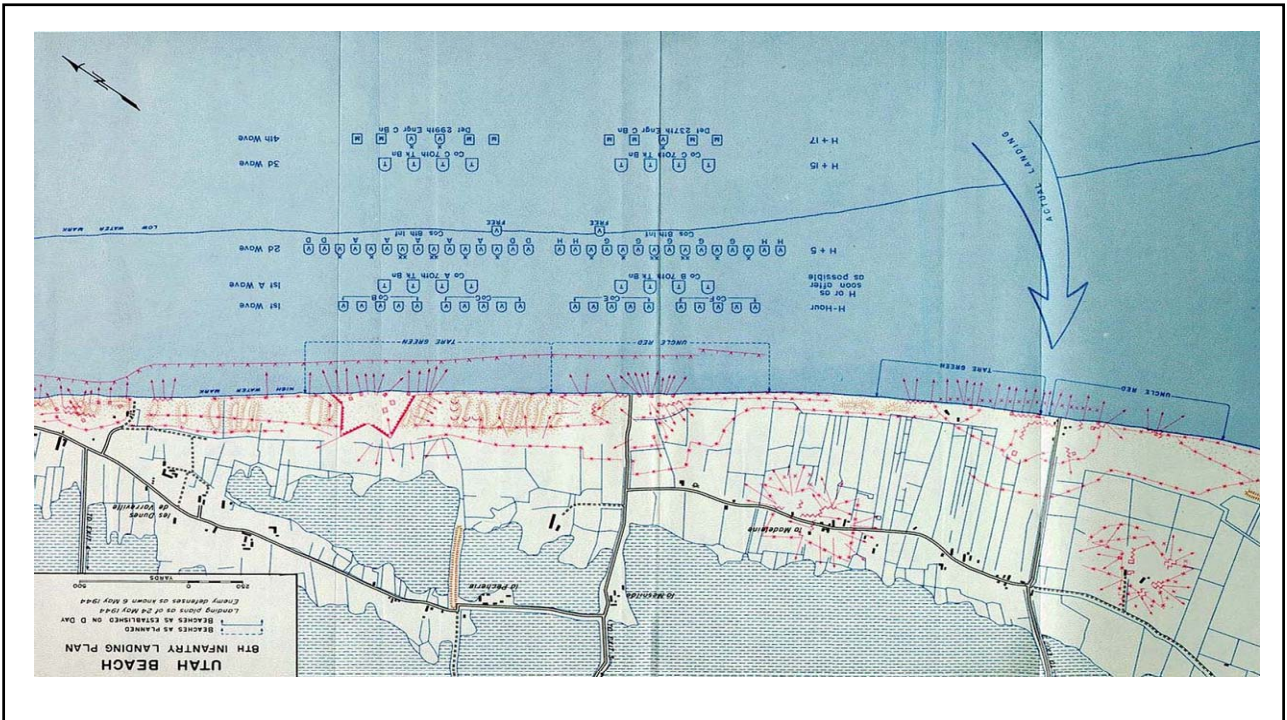
Effective pre-dawn bombing.



## An easy landing but off course.

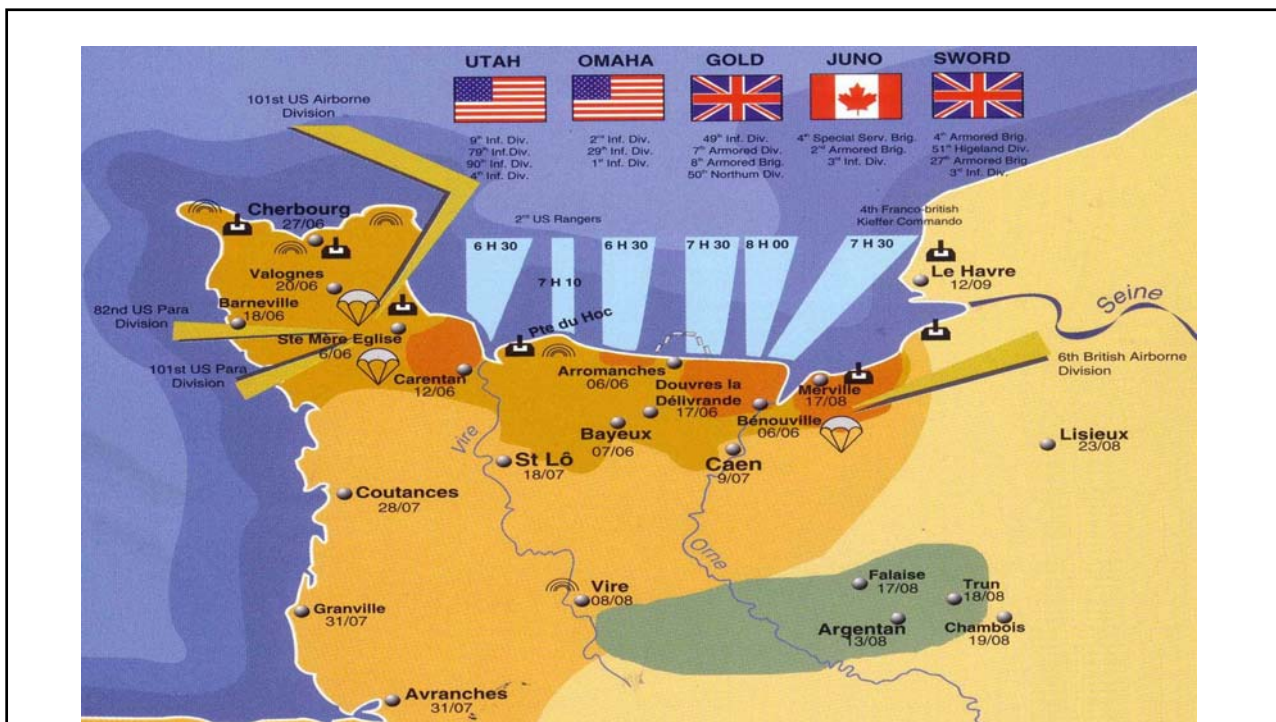
The landing craft were pushed to the south by strong currents.





### Cherbourg in 1944





The first officer ashore Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr.  
“We’ll start the war from here.”



He ordered further landings to be re-routed south as he thought it was an easier location with fewer obstacles.

But was this a mistake? The original plan was for the 90th to push north toward the port of Cherbourg.



But was this a mistake?

It may have been an easy landing. They moved 6 miles inland...south.





- The new plan was poorly executed!
- The 90<sup>th</sup> was replaced by the more experienced 82nd Airborne



and 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.



It took another 20 days to take Cherbourg.



By then the port facilities had been destroyed.



## Some of the troops involved

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Battalions, 8th Infantry
- From the 70th Tank Battalion: 28 tanks of the plus 16 conventional M4 Sherman tanks, 8 dozer tanks 8 LCMs and 3 LCVPs
- detachments of the 237th and 299th Combat Engineer Battalions
- The 82nd Airborne relieved by the 90th Division (who failed to take their objective)
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry
- The 4<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry
- 3/501st Parachute Infantry Regiment



Cherbourg today









# **GOLD BEACH**

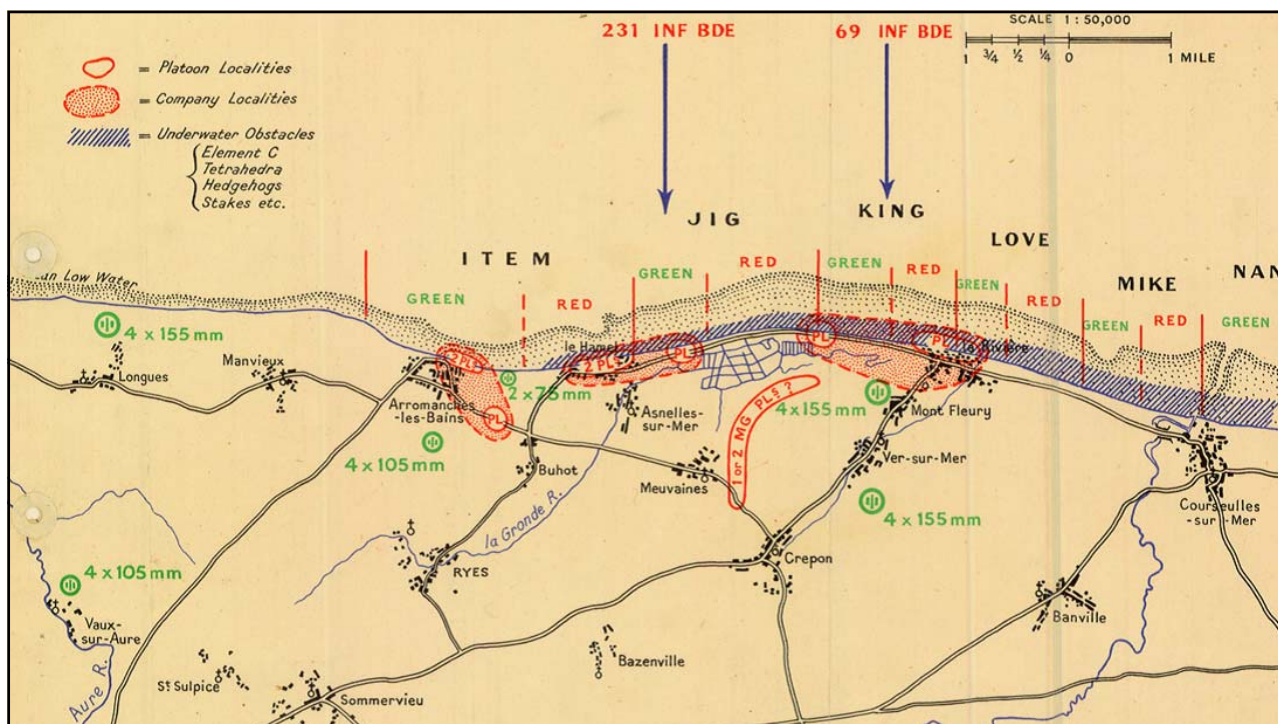
**0631, 6 June 1944**

Presented by Bruce Holdsworth

## Gold Beach Mission

-  1. Cut the Caen-Bayeux highway.
-  2. Take the small port of Arromanches.
-  3. Link up with Americans from Omaha Beach to the west at Port-en-Bessin.
-  4. Link up with the Canadians to the east.
-  5. Take the Longues battery from the rear.

 50th Northumbrian Division Infantry (UK)



Please refer to:  
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Gold-Beach>

## Gold Beach

WORLD WAR II

WRITTEN BY: Ronald J. Drez  
[See Article History](#)

**Gold Beach**, the centre [beach](#) of the five designated landing areas of the [Normandy Invasion of World War II](#). It was assaulted and taken from defending German troops on June 6, 1944 (D-Day of the invasion), by units of the British 50th Infantry Division.

The landing area code-named Gold Beach was more than 8 km (5 miles) wide and included the coastal towns of La Rivière and Le Hamel. On the western end of the beach was the small port of [Arromanches](#) and slightly west of that port was the small port of [Omaha Beach](#).

The defending German forces were the 21st SS Panzer Division, which was the only German division to fight on Gold Beach. The division was destroyed on June 7, 1944.

**START DOWNLOAD**

In order to start:  
 1. Click on the Download  
 2. Get to the webpage  
 3. Install the product

2:03 PM 7/26/2017

# JUNO BEACH

0631, 6 June 1944

Presented by Drummond McKenzie

## Juno Beach Mission



1. Secure Juno beach.



2. Provide close support to beaches.



3. Link up with British 3d Infantry Div. on Sword.



4. Link up with British 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Div. on Gold.



5. Capture Carpiquet Airfield.



6. Reach the Caen–Bayeux railway line by nightfall.



3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division



2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade



No. 48 (Royal Marine) Commando

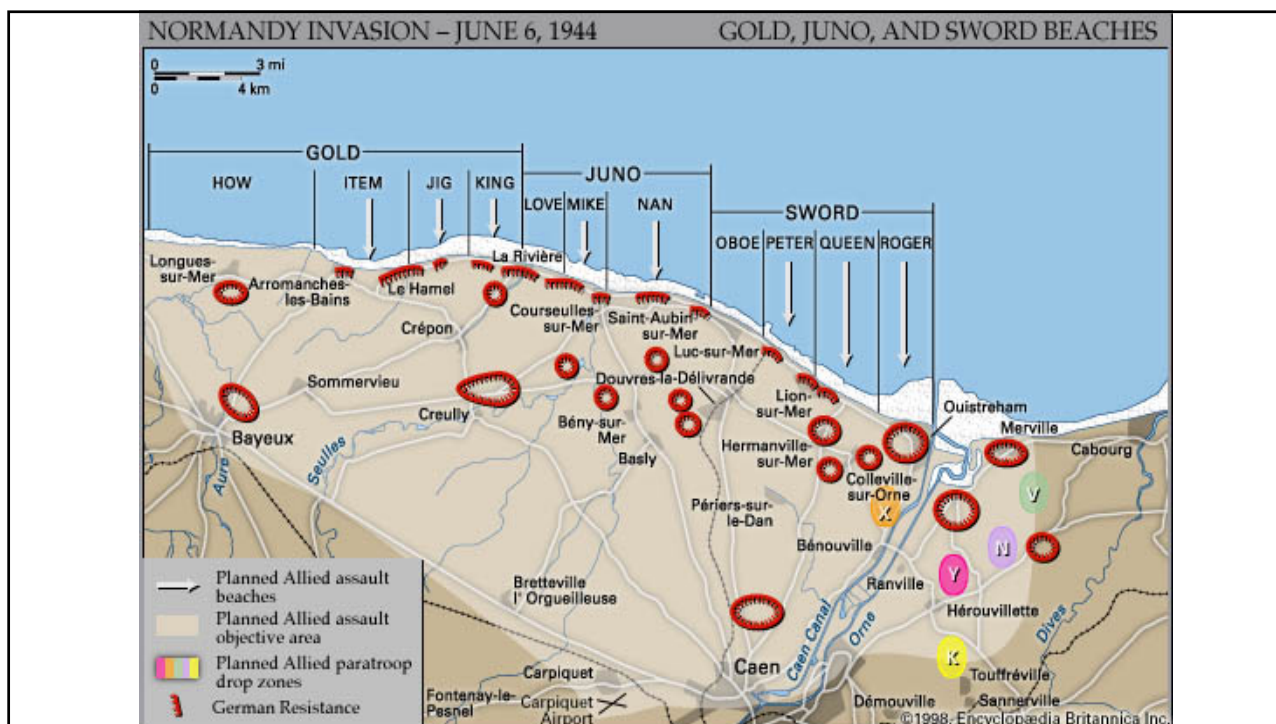


## D Day Juno Beach The Canadian Landings

### Juno Beach

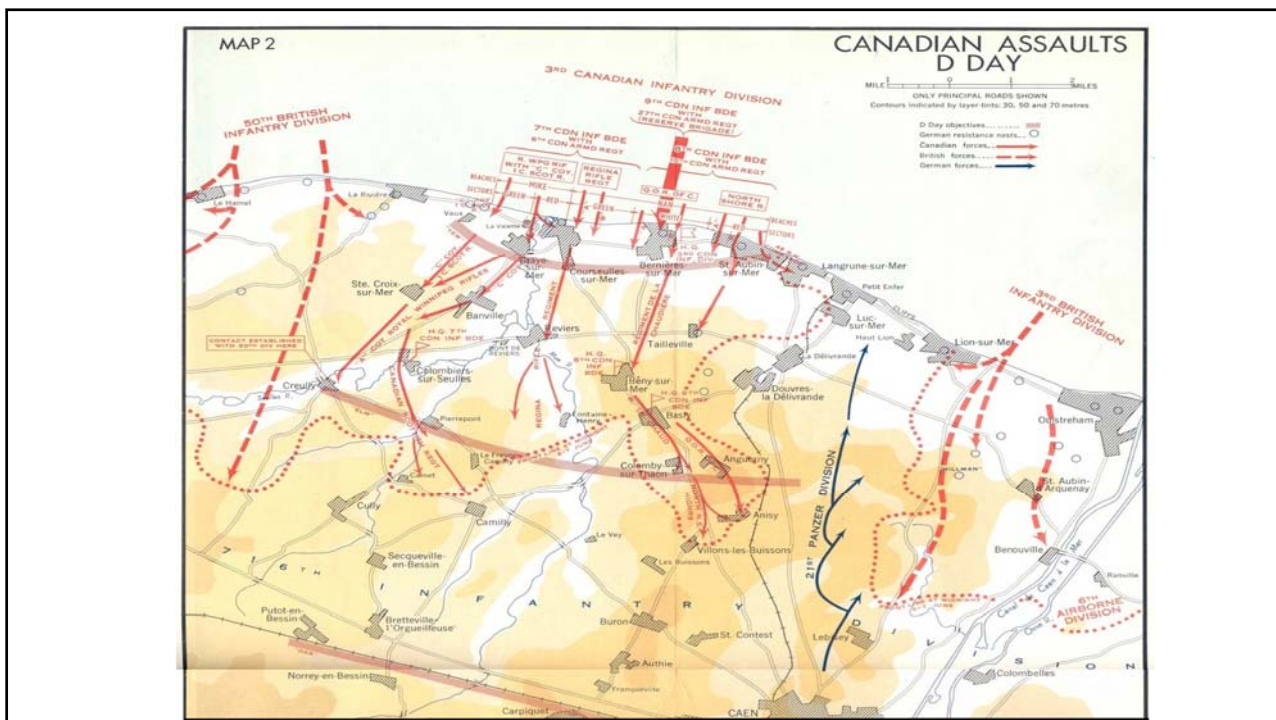
- Juno Beach was approximately 10 km (6 miles) wide and stretched on either side of the small fishing port of Courseulles-sur-Mer. Two smaller villages, Bernières and Saint-Aubin, lay to the east of Courseulles. Smaller coastal villages lay behind the sand dunes and had been fortified by the occupying Germans with gun positions and adjacent fighting positions.
- Juno beach was divided by the Allied command into two designated assault sectors: Nan (comprising Red, White, and Green sections) to the east and Mike (made up of Red and White sections) to the west.
- It was to be assaulted by the Canadian 3rd Infantry Division, the 7th Brigade landing at Courseulles in Mike sector and the 8th Brigade landing at Bernières in Nan sector.
- The objectives of the 3rd Division on D-Day were to cut the Caen-Bayeux road, seize the Carpiquet airport west of Caen, and form a link between the two British beaches of Gold and Sword on either side of Juno Beach.



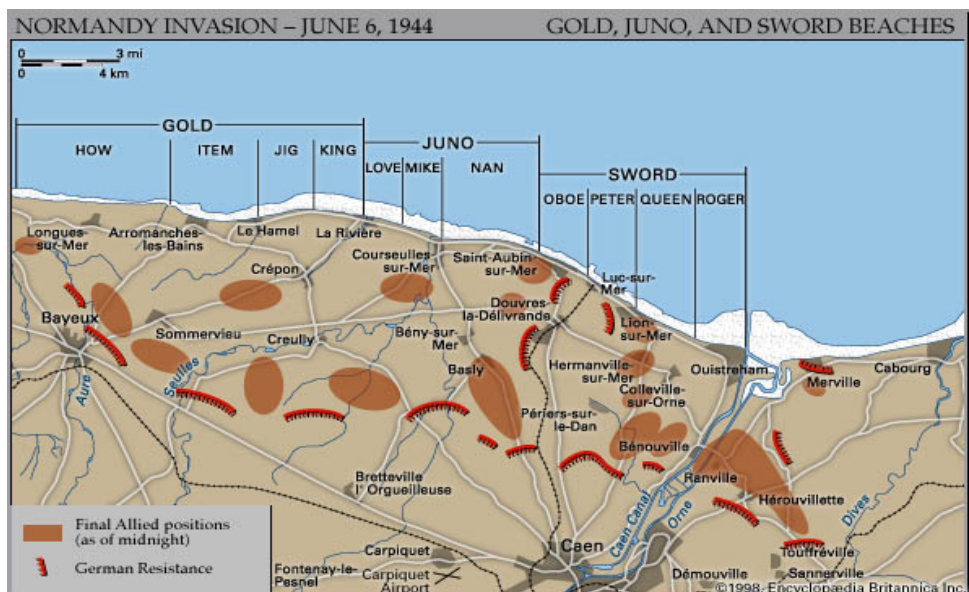


## The Canadian Attack on Juno Beach

- Strong swell and bad weather caused delays in landing, and difficulties for sappers clearing the way for the landings. 30% of landing craft damaged or destroyed by mines or underwater objects
- The first wave of Canadians took dreadful casualties. B Company the Royal Winnipeg Rifles was cut down to one officer and 25 men as it moved to reach the seawall. In the assault teams, the chance of becoming a casualty in that first hour was almost 1 in 2. Major impact of amphibious tanks when they landed. Total of 1,200 casualties on the first day.
- Canadian 3rd Division had linked up with the British 50th Division from Gold Beach to the west
- Hard fighting had brought the town of Bernières into Canadian hands, and later Saint-Aubin was occupied. Progress inland past the towns was good, and, as some armoured units arrived in later waves. By evening the Canadians had advanced 12 kms inland.
- By end of first day Canadians were unable to make contact with the British 3rd Division from Sword Beach to the east—leaving a gap of 3 km into which elements of the German 21st Panzer Division counterattacked
- The the Caen-Bayeux road was crossed by Canadian tanks but not held due to lack of infantry support and Carpiquet airport was not taken- still 5kms away



### Allied Positions Midnight 6 June 1944













# SWORD BEACH

## 0631, 6 June 1944

### Sword Beach Mission

#### Attached Forces:



- 

 1. Capture the German-occupied city of Caen.
- 

 2. Form a front line from Caumont-l'Éventé to the south-east of Caen
- 

 3. Acquire airfields in the assigned zone.
- 

 4. Protect the left flank of the US First Army while it captures Cherbourg.
- 
 5. Secure the left (1<sup>st</sup> SSB) and right (41 Cmdo) flanks of Sword.
- 
 6. Destroy the Merville battery, secure two Orne River and canal bridges, and destroy bridges across the Dives.

 3rd Infantry Division (UK)
  6th Airborne Division (UK)
  27th Armoured Brigade (UK)
  1st Special Service Brigade 41 (Royal Marine) Commando

