
Axis  Germany

Commanders and leaders

Dwight D. Eisenhower (Supreme Allied Commander)  Arthur Tedder (Deputy Supreme Allied Commander)  Bernard Montgomery (21st Army Group, Ground Forces Commander in Chief)  Trafford Leigh-Mallory (Air Commander in Chief)  Bertram Ramsay (Naval Commander in Chief)

Miles Dempsey (British 2nd Army)  Omar Bradley (U.S. 1st Army)  Gerd von Rundstedt (Oberbefehlshaber West)  Erwin Rommel (Heeresgruppe B)  Friedrich Dollmann (7 Armeecommando)  Leo Geyr von Schweppenburg (Panzergruppe West)

Strength

1,332,000 (by 24 July)[3]  380,000 (by 23 July)[4]

Casualties and losses

Omaha Utah Pointe du Hoc
Anglo-Canadian Sector
Gambit
Sword Juno Gold Port-en-Bessin
Initial ground campaign American Sector
Brécourt Manor Graignes Hill 30
Saint-Lô Carentan Cherbourg
Anglo-Canadian Sector
Caen Bréville Perch
Villers-Bocage
Le Mesnil-Patry Douvres Martlet Epsom
Windsor Charnwood Jupiter 2nd Odon
Atlantic Goodwood Verrières Ridge
British logistics
Breakout
Cobra Spring Bluecoat Totalize
Lüttich Tractable Hill 262 Chambois
Falaise Brest Paris
Air and Sea Operations
Ushant La Cane Cherbourg Pierres Noires Audierne Bay
Supporting operations
Dingson Samwest Titanic Cooney
Jedburgh Pluto Mulberry Dragoon
Aftermath
Cemeteries

West European Campaign (1944–45)
Overlord Dragoon Paris Paris to the Rhine Channel Coast Market Garden Aachen Hürtgen Forest Scheldt Queen Bulge Nordwind Blackcock Colmar Pocket Reichswald Invasion of Germany End of World War II in Europe

Western Front of World War II
prelude
1939
Phoney War Saar The Heligoland Bight
1940
Luxembourg The Netherlands
The Hague Rotterdam Zeeland German bombing of Rotterdam
Belgium
Fort Eben-Emael Hannut Gembloux La Lys
France
Sedan Montcornet Arras Lille Boulogne Calais Abbeville Paula Dunkirk Dunkirk evacuation Italian Invasion of France Saumur
Britain
The Western Allies of World War II launched the largest amphibious invasion in history when they assaulted Normandy, located on the northern coast of France, on 6 June 1944. The invaders were able to establish a beachhead as part of Operation Overlord after a successful "D-Day," the first day of the invasion. Allied land forces came from the United States, Britain, Canada, and Free French forces. In the weeks following the invasion, Polish forces and contingents from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece and the Netherlands participated in the ground campaign; most also provided air and naval support alongside elements of the Royal Australian Air Force, the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and the Royal Norwegian Navy.[5][nb 1] The Normandy invasion began with overnight parachute and glider landings, massive air attacks and naval bombardments. In the early morning, amphibious landings commenced on five beaches codenamed Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha and Utah, with troops from the United States landing on Omaha and Utah, Great Britain landing on Gold and Sword and Canada landing on Juno. During the evening the remaining elements of the airborne divisions landed. Land forces used on D-Day sailed from bases along the south coast of England, the most important of these being Portsmouth.[6]
prevent aircraft finding their targets. The Allied troop convoys already at sea were forced to take shelter in bays and inlets on the south coast of Britain for the night. It seemed possible that everything would have to be cancelled and the troops returned to their embarkation camps (which would be almost impossible, as the enormous movement of follow-up formations into them was already proceeding).[10] The next full moon period would be nearly a month away. At a vital meeting on 5 June, Eisenhower's chief meteorologist (Group Captain J.M. Stagg) forecast a brief improvement for 6 June,[11] Commander of all land forces for the invasion General Bernard Montgomery and Eisenhower's Chief of Staff General Walter Bedell Smith wished to proceed with the invasion. Commander of the Allied Air Forces Air Chief Marshal Leigh Mallory was doubtful, but Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief Admiral Bertram Ramsay believed that conditions would be marginally favorable.[10] On the strength of Stagg's forecast, Eisenhower ordered the invasion to proceed.[12] As a result, prevailing overcast skies limited Allied air support, and no serious damage would be done to the beach defences on Omaha and Juno.[13] The Germans meanwhile took comfort from the existing poor conditions, which were worse over Northern France than over the English Channel itself, and believed no invasion would be possible for several days. Some troops stood down and many senior officers were away for the weekend. Field Marshal Erwin Rommel took a few days' leave to celebrate his wife's birthday,[14] while dozens of division, regimental and battalion commanders were away from their posts conducting war games just prior to the invasion.[15] Codenames[edit] The Allies assigned codenames to the various operations involved in the invasion. Overlord was the name assigned to the establishment of a large-scale lodgement on the northern portion of the Continent. The first phase, the establishment of a secure foothold, was codenamed Neptune. According to the D-day museum:

The armed forces use codenames to refer to the planning and execution of specific military operations. Operation Overlord was the codename for the Allied invasion of northwest Europe. The assault phase of Operation Overlord was known as Operation Neptune. (…) Operation Neptune began on D-Day (6 June 1944) and ended on 30 June 1944. By this time, the Allies had established a firm foothold in Normandy. Operation Overlord also began on D-Day, and continued until Allied forces crossed the River Seine on 19 August 1944.[16]

Officers with knowledge of D-Day were not to be sent where there was the slightest danger of being captured. These officers were given the codename of "Bigot", derived from the words "To Gib" (To Gibraltar) that was stamped on the papers of officers who took part in the North African invasion in 1942.[17] On the night of 27 April, during Exercise Tiger, a pre-invasion exercise off the coast of Slapton Sands beach, several American LSTs were attacked by German E boats and among the 638 Americans killed in the attack and a further 308 killed by friendly fire, ten "Bigots" were listed as missing. As the invasion would be cancelled if any were captured or unaccounted for,[18] their fate was given the highest priority and eventually all ten bodies were recovered. Allied order of battle[edit]

D-day assault routes into Normandy.

D-Day[edit] The following major units were landed on D-Day (6 June 1944). A more detailed order of battle for D-Day itself can be found at Normandy landings and List of Allied forces in the Normandy Campaign.


The total number of troops landed on D-Day was around 130,000[24]–156,000[25] roughly half American and the other from the Commonwealth Realms. Subsequent days[edit] Main article: Mulberry harbour

Off Omaha Beach, American Liberty ships – 'Com Cobs' were scuttled to provide a makeshift breakwater during the early days of the invasion.

The total troops, vehicles and supplies landed over the period of the invasion were:

By the end of 11 June (D + 5), 326,547 troops, 54,186 vehicles and 104,428 tons of supplies.[25] By 30 June (D+24) over 850,000 men, 148,000 vehicles, and 570,000 tons of supplies.[24] By 4 July one million men had been landed.[26]

Naval participants[edit] Main article: Normandy landings

Large landing craft convoy crosses the English Channel on 6 June 1944.

The invasion fleet was drawn from eight different navies, comprising 6,939 vessels: 1,213 warships, 4,126 transport vessels (landing ships and landing craft), and 736 ancillary craft and 864 merchant vessels.[19] The overall commander of the Allied Naval Expeditionary Force, providing close protection and bombardment at the beaches, was Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay. The Allied Naval Expeditionary Force was divided into two Naval Task Forces: Western (Rear-Admiral Alan G Kirk) and Eastern (Rear-Admiral Sir Philip Vian). The warships provided cover for the transports against the enemy—whether in the form of surface warships, submarines, or as an aerial attack—and gave support to the landings through shore bombardment. These ships included the Allied Task Force "O". German order of battle[edit] The number of military forces at the disposal of Nazi Germany reached its peak during 1944. Tanks on the east front peaked at 5,202 in November 1944, while total aircraft in the Luftwaffe inventory peaked at 5,041 in December 1944. By D-Day 157 German divisions were stationed in the Soviet Union, 6 in Finland, 12 in Norway, 6 in Denmark, 9 in Germany, 21 in the Balkans, 26 in Italy and 59 in France, Belgium and the Netherlands.[27] However, these statistics are somewhat misleading since a significant number of the divisions in the east were depleted; German records indicate that the average personnel complement was at about 50% in the spring of 1944.[28] A more detailed order of battle for D-Day itself can be found at Normandy landings. Atlantic Wall[edit] Main articles: Atlantic Wall and English Channel § Second World War

A map of the Atlantic Wall.

German Cross-Channel gun of the Atlantic Wall. One of three 40.6cm guns at Batterie "Lindemann"

Standing in the way of the Allies was the English Channel, an obstacle that had frustrated the ambitions of the Spanish Armada and Napoleon Bonaparte's Navy. Compounding the difficulty of invasion was the extensive Atlantic Wall, ordered by Hitler in his Directive 51. Believing that any forthcoming landings would be timed for high tide (this caused the landings to be timed for low tide), Hitler had the entire wall fortified with tank top turrets and extensive barbed wire, and laid a million mines to deter landing craft.[citation needed] The sector that was attacked was guarded by four divisions. Divisional areas[edit]
The following units were deployed in a static defensive mode in the areas of the actual landings:

716th Infantry Division (Static) consisted mainly of those ‘unfit for active duty’ and released prisoners. 352nd Infantry Division, a well-trained unit containing combat veterans. 91st Air Landing Division (Luftlande – air transported), a regular infantry division, trained, and equipped to be transported by air. 709th Infantry Division (Static). Like the 716th, this division included a number of "Ost" battalions led by German personnel.

Adjacent divisional areas[edit] Other divisions occupied the areas around the landing zones, including:

243rd Infantry Division (Static), (Generalleutnant Heinz Hellmich). This coastal defense division protected the western coast of the Cotentin Peninsula.

920th Infantry Regiment (two battalions) 921st Infantry Regiment 922nd Infantry Regiment.

711th Infantry Division (Static) (Generalleutnant Josef Reichert). This division defended the western part of the Pays de Caux.

731st Infantry Regiment 744th Infantry Regiment.

30th Mobile Brigade (Oberstleutnant Freiherr von und zu Aufsess), comprising three bicycle battalions.

Armoured reserves[edit] Rommel's defensive measures were frustrated by a dispute over armoured doctrine. In addition to his two army groups, Rundstedt also commanded the headquarters of Panzer Group West under General Leo Geyr von Schweppenburg (usually referred to as "von Geyr"). This formation was nominally an administrative HQ for Rundstedt's armoured and mobile formations, but it was later to be brought into the line in Normandy and renamed Fifth Panzer Army. Geyr and Rommel disagreed over the deployment and use of the vital Panzer divisions. Rommel recognised that the Allies would possess air superiority and would be able to harass his movements from the air. He therefore proposed that the armoured formations be deployed close to the invasion beaches. In his words, it was better to have one Panzer division facing the invaders on the first day, than three Panzer divisions three days later when the Allies would already have established a firm beachhead. Geyr argued for the standard doctrine that the Panzer formations should be concentrated in a central position around Paris and Rouen, and deployed en masse against the main Allied beachhead when this had been identified. The argument was eventually brought before Hitler for arbitration. He characteristically imposed an unworkable compromise solution. Only three Panzer divisions were given to Rommel, too few to cover all the threatened sectors. The remainder, nominally under Geyr's control, were actually designated as being in "OKW Reserve". Only three of these were deployed close enough to intervene immediately against any invasion of Northern France; the other four were dispersed in southern France and the Netherlands. Hitler reserved to himself the authority to move the divisions in OKW Reserve, or commit them to action. On 6 June many Panzer division commanders were unable to move because Hitler had not given the necessary authorisation, and his staff refused to wake him upon news of the invasion. Army Group B reserve[edit]

21st Panzer Division (Generalmajor Edgar Feuchtinger), was deployed near Caen as a mobile striking force as part of the Army Group B reserve. However, Rommel placed it so close to the coastal defenses that, under standing orders in case of invasion, several of its infantry and anti-aircraft units would come under the orders of the fortress divisions on the coast, reducing the effective strength of the division.

The other two armoured divisions over which Rommel had operational control, the 2nd Panzer Division and 116th Panzer Division, were deployed near the Pas de Calais in accordance with German views about the likely Allied landing sites. Neither was moved from the Pas de Calais for at least fourteen days after the invasion. OKW reserve[edit] The other mechanized divisions capable of intervening in Normandy were retained under the direct control of the German Armed Forces HQ (OKW) and were initially denied to Rommel: Four divisions were deployed to Normandy within seven days of the invasion:

12th SS Panzer Division Hitlerjugend (Brigadeführer Fritz Witt) was stationed to the southeast. Its officers and NCOs (this division had a very weak core of NCOs in Normandy with only slightly more than 50% of its authorised strength[28]) were long-serving veterans, but the junior soldiers had all been recruited directly from the Hitler Youth movement at the age of seventeen in 1943. It was to acquire a reputation for ferocity and war crimes in the coming battle. Panzer-Lehrg-Division (Generalmajor Fritz Bayerlein). Further to the southwest was an elite unit, originally formed by amalgamating the instructing staff at various training establishments. Not only were its personnel of high quality, but the division also had unusually high numbers of the latest and most capable armoured vehicles. 1st SS Panzer Division Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler was refitting in Belgium on the Netherlands border after being decimated on the Eastern Front. 17th SS Panzergrenadier Division Götz von Berlichingen (Oberführer Werner Ostendorff) was based on Thousars, south of the Loire River, and equipped with Assault guns instead of tanks and lacking in other transport (such that one battalion each from the 37th and 38th Panzergrenadier Regiments moved by bicycle), it provided the first major counterattack against the American advance at Carentan on 13 June.

Landing supplies at Normandy

Three other divisions (the 2nd SS Panzer Division Das Reich, which had been refitting at Montauban in Southern France, and the 9th SS Panzer Division Hohenstaufen and 10th SS Panzer Division Frundsberg which had been in transit from the Eastern Front on 6 June), were committed to battle in Normandy around twenty-one days after the first landings. One more armoured division (the 9th Panzer Division) saw action only after the American breakout from the beachhead. Two other armoured divisions which had been in the west on 6 June (the 11th Panzer Division and 19th Panzer Division) did not see action in Normandy. Leaders[edit] The following is a list of leaders in the Battle of Normandy.

Battle of Normandy leaders

Area Allied Powers Germany

The Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery

The Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery is a war memorial located in Bény-sur-Mer, Normandy, France. It commemorates the Canadian soldiers who died in the Normandy Campaign during World War II.

Main article: Normandy landings

The Normandy landings were the first successful opposed landings across the English Channel in over eight centuries. They were costly in terms of men, but the defeat inflicted on the Germans was one of the largest of the war. Strategically, the campaign led to the loss of the German position in most of France and the secure establishment of a new major front. In larger context the Normandy landings helped the Soviets on the Eastern Front, who were facing the bulk of the German forces and, to a certain extent, contributed to the shortening of the conflict there. Although there was a shortage of artillery ammunition, at no time were the Allies critically short of any necessity. This was a remarkable achievement considering they did not hold a port until Cherbourg fell. By the time of the breakout the Allies also enjoyed a considerable superiority in numbers of troops (approximately 7:2) and armoured vehicles (approximately 4:1) which helped overcome the natural advantages the terrain gave to the German defenders. Allied intelligence and counterintelligence efforts were successful beyond expectations. The Operation Fortitude deception before the invasion kept German attention focused on the Pas de Calais, and indeed high-quality German forces were kept in this area, away from Normandy, until July. Prior to the invasion, few German reconnaissance flights took place over Britain, and those that did saw only the dummy staging areas. Ultra decrypts of German communications had been helpful as well, exposing German dispositions and revealing their plans such as the Mortain counterattack.

General Bernard Montgomery with British troops in Normandy, July 1944

Allied air operations also contributed significantly to the invasion, via close tactical support, interdiction of German lines of communication (preventing timely movement of supplies and reinforcements—particularly the critical Panzer units), and rendering the Luftwaffe ineffective in Normandy.[nb 2] Although the impact upon armoured vehicles was less than expected, air activity intimidated these units and cut their supplies. Despite initial heavy losses in the assault phase, Allied morale remained high. Casualty rates among all the armies were tremendous, and the Commonwealth forces had to use a recently created category—Double Intense—to be able to describe them. German leadership[edit] German commanders at all levels failed to react to the assault phase in a timely manner. Communications problems exacerbated the difficulties caused by Allied air and naval firepower. Local commanders also seemed incapable of the task of fighting an aggressive defense on the beach, as Rommel had envisioned. The German High Command remained fixated on the Calais area, and von Rundstedt was not permitted to commit the armoured reserve. When it was finally released late in the day, its chance of fighting an aggressive defense on the beach, as Rommel had envisioned. The German High Command remained fixated on the Calais area, and von Rundstedt was not permitted to commit the armoured reserve. When it was finally released late in the day, its chance of success was greatly reduced. Overall, despite considerable Allied material superiority, the Germans kept the Allies bottled up in a small beachhead for nearly two months, aided immeasurably by terrain factors. Although there were several known disputes among the Allied commanders, their tactics and strategy were essentially determined by agreement among the main commanders. By contrast, the German leaders were bullied and their decisions interfered with by OKW. Field Marshals von Rundstedt and Rommel repeatedly asked Hitler for more discretion but were refused. Rundstedt was removed from his command on 29 June after he bluntly told the Chief of Staff at Hitler's Armed Forces HQ (Field Marshal Keitel) to “Make peace, you idiots!” Rommel was severely injured by Allied aircraft on 17 July. Sixty thousand of the 850,000 in Rundstedt's command were raised from the many prisoners of war taken on the Eastern Front.[33] Many surrendered or deserted at the first available opportunity. War memorials and tourism[edit]
The beaches at **Normandy** are still referred to on maps and signposts by their invasion codenames. There are several vast cemeteries in the area. The American cemetery, in Colleville-sur-Mer, contains row upon row of identical white crosses and Stars of David, immaculately kept, commemorating the American dead. Commonwealth graves, maintained in many locations by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, uses white headstones engraved with the person's religious or medal (Victoria Cross or **George Cross** only) symbol and their unit insignia. The Bayeux War Cemetery, with 4,648 burials, is the largest British cemetery of the war.[34] The largest cemetery in **Normandy** is the La Cambe German war cemetery, with 21,222 burials, which features granite stones almost flush with the ground and groups of low-set crosses. There is also a Polish cemetery.

**Paratroop memorial in Sainte-Mère-Église**

At the **Bayeux** Memorial, a monument erected by Britain has a Latin inscription on the memorial reads "Nos a guilemto victorix patriam liberavimus" – freely translated, this reads "We, once conquered by William, have now set free the Conqueror's native land".[34] Streets near the beaches are still named after the units that fought there, and occasional markers commemorate notable incidents. At significant points, such as **Pointe du Hoc** and Pegasus Bridge, there are plaques, memorials or small museums. The **Mulberry harbour** still sits in the sea at Arromanches. In Sainte-Mère-Église, a dummy paratrooper hangs from the church spire. On Juno Beach, the Canadian government has built the **Juno Beach** Information Centre, commemorating one of the most significant events in Canadian military history. In England the most significant memorial is the **D-Day Museum** in Southsea, Hampshire. The Museum was opened in 1984 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of D-Day. Its centrepiece is the Overlord embroidery commissioned by Lord Dulverton of Batsford (1915–92) as a tribute to the sacrifice and heroism of those men and women who took part in Operation Overlord. On 5 June 1994 a drumhead service was held on Southsea Common adjacent the **D-Day** Museum. This service was attended by US President Bill Clinton, **Queen Elizabeth II** and over 100,000 members of the public. Dramatisations[edit] The Battle of **Normandy** has been the topic of many films, television shows, songs, computer games and books. Many dramatisations focus on the initial landings, and these are covered at **Normandy** Landings. Some examples that cover the wider battle include:

**Films**


**Notes[edit]**

See D-Day Daily Telegraph crossword security alarm.

**Footnotes**

^ a b a Defence against a mass U-boat attack relied on "19 Group of [RAF] Coastal Command ... [it] included one Czech, one Polish, one New Zealander, two Australian and three Canadian squadrons. Even the RAF's own 224 Squadron was a mixed bag of nationalities with 137 Britons, forty-four Canadians, thirty-three Anzacs, two Americans, a Swiss, a Chilean, a South African and a Brazilian"[35] "The D-Day air offensive was another [RAF] multinational operation. It included five New Zealander, seven Australian, twenty-eight Canadian, one Rhodesian, six French, fourteen Polish, three Czech, two Belgian, two Dutch and two Norwegian squadrons"[36] At 05:37 the Norwegian destroyer Sevenner, one of 37 destroyers in the Eastern Task Force, was sunk by a torpedo launched from a German E-boat.[37] "In addition to the Cruiser ORP Dragon, the Polish destroyers ORP Krakowiak and Slazak took part in beach support operations, while the destroyers OKP Błyskiewica and Piorun were employed as part of the covering force"[38] Following Normandy, a joke regarding their lack of air support became common and widely spread by Wehrmacht soldiers: "If the plane in the sky is silver, it's American, if it's blue, it's British, if it's invisible, it's ours!"[citation needed]

**Citations**

Numerous abbreviated histories have been written. Among the most useful are:


Memoirs by Allied commanders contain considerable information. Among the best are:


Memoirs by Allied and German soldiers of various ranks also give a good insight into the campaign.

Almost as useful are biographies of leading commanders. Among the most prominent are:


Numerous general histories also exist, many centering on the controversies that continue to surround the campaign and its commanders:


Journalists were among the foremost observers of the invasion:


External links

Anti-communist
Romania Thailand Soviet Union Slovakia Western Ukraine Vietnam Yugoslavia
Monarchists
Timeline
Prelude
Africa Asia Europe
1939
Poland Phoney War Winter War Atlantic Changsha China
1940
Weserübung Netherlands Belgium France
Armistice of 22 June 1940
Britain North Africa West Africa British Somaliland North China Baltic States Moldova Indochina Greece Compass
1941
East Africa Yugoslavia Shanggao Greece Crete Iraq Soviet Union (Barbarossa) Finland Lithuania Syria and Lebanon Kiev Iran Leningrad Gorky Moscow Sevastopol Pearl Harbor
The outbreak of the Pacific War
Hong Kong Philippines Changsha Malaya Borneo (1941–42)
1942
Burma Changsha Java Sea Coral Sea Gazala Dutch Harbor Attu (occupation) Kiska Zhejiang-Jiangxi Midway Rzhev Blue Stalingrad Singapore Dieppe El Alamein Guadalcanal Torch
1943
Tunisia Kursk Smolensk Gorky Solomon Islands Attu Sicily Cottage Lower Dnieper Italy
Armistice of Cassibile
Gilbert and Marshall Islands Burma Northern Burma and Western Yunnan Changde
1944
Bodenplatte
Philippines (1944–1945) Burma (1944–45)
1945
Vistula–Oder Iwo Jima Western invasion of Germany Okinawa Italy (Spring 1945) Borneo Syrmian Front Berlin Czechoslovakia Budapest West Hunan Guangxi Surrender of Germany Project Hula Manchuria Manila Borneo Taipei Atomic bombings
Debate
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Aspects
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Famines
Bengal famine of 1943 Chinese famine of 1942–43 Greek Famine of 1941-1944 Dutch famine of 1944–45 Vietnamese Famine of 1945
Air warfare of World War II Blitzkrieg Comparative military ranks Cryptography Diplomacy Home front
United States Australian United Kingdom
Primary articles on the Battle of Normandy, Western Front, World War II

Operations Locations See also

**Operation Overlord** (The overall invasion plan) Operation Neptune (The assault plan) American airborne landings in Normandy
*Operation Deadstick* (UK 6th Airborne) **Operation Tonga** (UK 6th Airborne) **Battle of Merville Gun Battery** (UK 6th Airborne)
*Operation Mallard* (UK 6th Airborne) **Battle of Bréville** (UK 6th Airborne) **Operation Pluto** (Pipe-Line Under The Ocean) **Operation Fortitude** (Deception plan) **Operation Perch** (UK) **Operation Martlet** (UK) **Operation Epsom** (UK) **Operation Windsor** (Canada)
*Operation Charnwood* (UK) **Operation Jupiter** (UK) Operations Greenline, Pomegranate and Express (UK) **Operation Goodwood** (UK) **Operation Atlantic** (Canada) **Operation Spring** (Canada) **Operation Cobra** (US) **Operation Bluecoat** (UK) **Operation Totalize** (Canada, Poland, UK) **Operation Lüttich** (German) **Operation Tractable** (Canada, Poland, UK) **Battle for Brest** (US) **Battle for Caen** (UK, Canada) Battle of Verrières Ridge (Canada) **Battle of Carentan** (US) **Battle of Cherbourg** (US) **Battle of Villers-Bocage** (UK)

Landing points (W→E):

**Utah Beach** (US) **Omaha Beach** (US)

**Pointe du Hoc** (US)

**Gold Beach** (UK) **Juno Beach** (Canada) **Sword Beach** (UK)

Other:

Crisbecq Battery Falaise Pocket Hill 262 Hillman Fortress Houlogate battery Longues-sur-Mer battery Maisy battery Merville Gun Battery Mont Canisy battery Pegasus Bridge

The Norman Invasion. Edward the Confessor became king of England in 1042. His mother was from Normandy, he had spent a lot of time there, and spoke French. William the Duke of Normandy was his cousin and a close friend. In 1066 Edward died leaving no a heir to the throne. The power of these Norman Barons gradually increased and during the reign of the Plantagenets began, together with the Church, to challenge the King's absolute power, which resulted in King John being forced to sign the Magna Carta at Runnymede in 1215. This document contained a long list of limitations to the King's power and these rights obtained by the Barons were eventually extended to the entire population. Perhaps the most important of the clauses of the Magna Carta is the one which states that Normandy Invasion: Normandy Invasion, during World War II, the Allied invasion of western Europe, which was launched on June 6, 1944, with the simultaneous landing of U.S., British, and Canadian forces on five separate beachheads in Normandy, France. Soldiers training for the Normandy Invasion debark from Landing Craft, Infantry (LCIs), at Slapton Sands, Devon, England. U.S. Coast Guard. The air campaign. Info The Invasion of Normandy was the invasion by and establishment of Western Allied forces in Normandy, during Operation Overlord in 1944 during World War II; the largest amphibious invasion to ever take place. He left England less than a week before the invasion of Normandy. When he returned to the United States, testing of the P-80 Shooting Star jet fighter was underway. Steps to safeguard the civilian internees were undertaken by cutting off news to their compounds. That same month the prisoners received news of the invasion of Normandy. ... Most of those buried there were killed in the i...