

Pegasus Bridge

Specially trained British airborne troops, the first Allied forces to land in France, capture twin bridges over the Orne and the Caen Canal – Pegasus Bridge – at 12:16 am. Troops arrive silently in six Horsa assault gliders, the pilots aided only by maps and stopwatches – later described as ‘the finest piece of airmanship in the war’

Ouistreham

1.5 miles

Gun battery

Merville

Benouville

Pegasus Bridge

Caen

Parachute
Regiment
cap badge

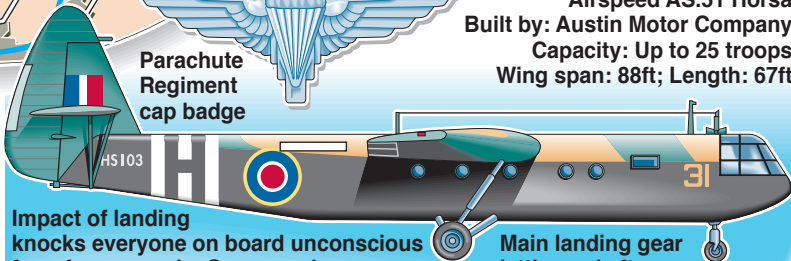


Airspeed AS.51 Horsa

Built by: Austin Motor Company

Capacity: Up to 25 troops

Wing span: 88ft; Length: 67ft



Impact of landing

knocks everyone on board unconscious for a few seconds. One man drowns before regaining consciousness after one glider lands in marshy area close to bridge

Main landing gear jettisoned after take-off on operational missions

Getting airborne...



Towing speed: 127mph
Gliding speed: 100mph

Tug rope cast off
at 5,000 feet

Tug aircraft: Halifax,
Whitley V, Albermarle