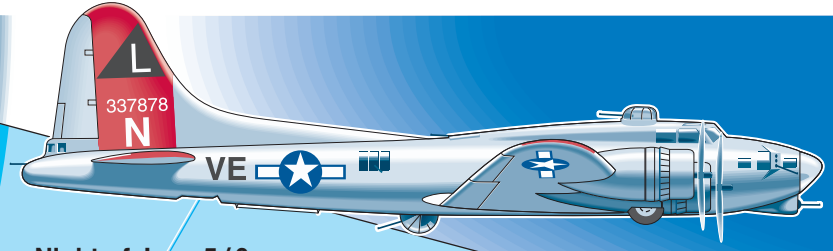
June 6, 1944
D-Day



Southampton
Portsmouth
Poole
Exeter
Newhaven
Weymouth
Dartmouth
'Piccadilly Circus' assembly point
ENGLISH CHANNEL
Cherbourg
Alderney
Guernsey
Isigny
Villers
Jersey
NORMANDY
Caen
1
2
3
4
5

June 4, 21:30
'OK, let's go'
Following several days of bad weather, the Met Office predicts 24 hours of settled conditions from late on June 5. Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, decides the time is right to move

June 5:
Task force sets sail
300 minesweepers clear channels to 'Piccadilly Circus' for the assembly of over 6,900 warships and landing craft

Assault areas
1 – Utah
2 – Omaha
3 – Gold
4 – Juno
5 – Sword

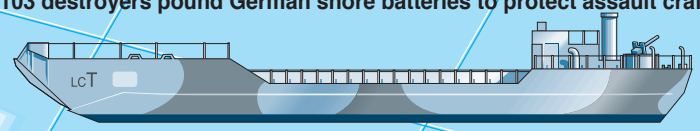
Night of June 5 / 6:
1,056 RAF and USAF heavy bombers drop more than 5,000 tons of bombs on enemy strongpoints

June 6, 00:20 – Airborne assault
Pathfinder teams mark out three drop zones for gliders. British and U.S. paratroops drop into Normandy to seize and secure bridges and cut off enemy reinforcements

02:00 – Minesweepers clear approaches to beaches

04:30 – Naval bombardment of beaches commences

05:30 – 'Drenching fire'
Heaviest bombardment of the war begins at dawn. 7 battleships, 23 cruisers and 103 destroyers pound German shore batteries to protect assault craft



U.S. 1st Army
Lieutenant General
Omar N. Bradley

British 2nd Army
Lieutenant General
Sir Miles Dempsey

06:30 – Hitting the beaches
Utah – During D-Day 23,250 U.S. troops and support vehicles are landed. 350 casualties
Omaha – 34,000 U.S. infantry. 3,000 casualties

07:30 – The British beaches
Gold – 24,970 troops. 1,000 casualties
Sword – 28,845 troops. 1,000 casualties

07:40 – The Canadian landings
Juno – 21,400 troops. 900 casualties

UTAH
OMAHA
GOLD
JUNO
SWORD

Ste Mère Eglise
Pouppeville
Pointe du Hoc
Carentan
Isigny
St Laurent
Colleville
Port en Bessin
Arromanches
Colombières
Blay
Bayeux
St Leger
Periers
Bieville
Ouistreham
Merville
Pegasus Bridge
Carpiquet
Airfield
Caen
Ranville
10 miles

U.S. 82 and 101 Airborne Divisions
12,809 airborne troops secure the western edge of the battlefield but at the cost of 7,500 lives

German 7th Army
Generaloberst Friedrich Dollman

German 15th Army
Generaloberst Hans von Salmuth

Forêt de Cerisy

12:30 – Establishing a bridgehead
British infantry fight inland off Sword beach, aiming to take Caen by nightfall

16:00 – Infantry reach Bieville, three miles from Caen, but are stopped by tanks of the German 21st Panzer Division. Infantry knock out 16 tanks

19:00 – Counterattack
21st Panzer Division led by 50 tanks mounts massive counterattack on Sword beach. Drive fails just short of the cliffs, with the loss of 13 tanks

Midnight – End of day one
By midnight on June 6, 1944 the Allies have landed 155,000 men in Normandy, supported by over 1,000 tanks, support vehicles and artillery. They suffer 14,400 casualties – most heavily on 'Bloody Omaha' and the two airborne assaults on the western flank. German losses on D-Day are estimated at 6,000

British 6th Airborne Division
6,256 paratroopers secure the eastern edge of the battlefield, destroy all five bridges over the Dives River, silence shore batteries at Merville and capture intact the two bridges ***(Pegasus Bridge)*** across the Orne and Caen Canal. 6th Airborne Division suffers 650 casualties

FFI

French Resistance
The ***Forces Françaises de l'Interieur*** worked with SOE (British Special Operations Executive), SAS and OSS (U.S. Office of Strategic Services) to gather much of the intelligence required for the Allies to mount the attack. Warned of the invasion in coded messages from the BBC, Resistance groups cut phone lines, sabotaged trains and railway lines and fought alongside the airborne forces

KEY
Planned extent of advance by midnight
Actual extent of advance by midnight
Flooded areas – part of German defences

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